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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
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January 4, 1993

Isley remains agriculture minister

Ernie Isley remains Alberta's agriculture minister, but his portfolio has a new name and some expanded responsibilities.

The department's new name is Agriculture and Rural Development. Isley will also be responsible for the Land Compensation Board and some administration of the public lands division of the former Forestry, Lands and Wildlife department.

"I'm delighted to stay in the agriculture portfolio," says Isley. "There are some exciting and crucial times ahead in the agriculture and food industry.

I'm very pleased to stay through the Creating Tomorrow process and look forward to the resolution of national transportation issues."

Isley, and the Minister of Environmental Protection Brian Evans, are working out the details of public lands administration. Both say the government will continue to observe multiple-use policy for public lands. They expect both departments will share stewardship of public lands. Complete details should be available early in 1993.

Cabinet changes were made following the swearing in of Alberta's new Premier Ralph Klein. Klein also reduced the cabinet from 28 to 17 members.

The former Associate Minister of Agriculture portfolio was dropped from the new look cabinet and its areas of responsibility have returned to an amalgamated agriculture ministry. Shirley McClellan, who had been the associate minister, is the new Minister of Health.

Isley will also serve on as the vice-chair of a standing policy committee on agriculture and rural development. The committee will be chaired by Butch Fischer, Wainwright MLA. Isley was also named a member of the government's agenda and priorities committee.

Contact: Dwight Dibben
427-2137

Sixteen more areas eligible for breeding animals tax deferral

Farmers in 16 more Alberta municipalities are eligible for tax deferrals if they were forced to sell livestock because of drought conditions in 1992.

"This brings the total to 45 areas that will be eligible for this federal program," says Paul Gervais of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

The new eligible areas are: the counties of Camrose, Leduc, Flagstaff and Parkland; the municipal districts of Provost, Brazeau, Smoky River, Peace and Fairview; improvement districts 14, 16, 17 (West), 19, 22 and 23; and the City of Edmonton.

If farmers are forced to sell part of their breeding herd, the program allows them to defer part of that income from their 1992 taxable income. The program, the Drought Induced Sales of Breeding Animals, gives producers a way to replace their breeding stock in the future.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Isley remains agriculture minister 1

Sixteen more areas eligible for breeding animals tax deferral 1

Farm tax benefits in federal mini-budget 2

Symposium looks at matching beef cattle to environments 2

Cropping system workshops coming to the northwest 3

Think marketing at MAC'93 day three 3

Rural Crime Watch provincial workshop Feb.5-6 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

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IT

The program has two deferrals. If producers reduce their herd by at least 15 per cent and less than 30 per cent, they can defer 30 per cent of their sale income. If they are forced to sell 30 per cent or more of their breeding herd, they can defer 90 per cent of that sale income. However, if the producer buys more breeding stock in the same year, that cost must be deducted from their total sales.

Farmers must request the tax deferral when they file their 1992 income tax return. More information is available by contacting a Revenue Canada district taxation office.

Twenty-nine other municipalities were announced as eligible for the program in August and September. They are: the counties of Grande Prairie, Warner, Thorhild, Forty Mile, Beaver, Barrhead, Athabasca, Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Strathcona, Two Hills, Vermilion River, Lethbridge, Minburn, Lac St. Anne and Lamont; the municipal districts of Cypress, Cardston, Taber, Wainwright, Bonnyville, Sturgeon, Westlock and Spirit River; and, improvement districts 15, 17 (east), 18 (south), 20 and 21.

"Some farmers in 13 of these designated areas qualify for an extra benefit. They were also eligible for this deferral in 1991," says Gervais. "So, they may defer any sale income from 1991 to 1993, along with the 1992 deferral. This may be particularly important to producers who have been unable to rebuild their herds because of continued dry conditions."

Cattle, bison, goats and sheep that are over 12 months of age are eligible for the program. Breeding animals also include deer, elk and other similar grazing ungulates. Horses over 12 months of age kept for breeding in the commerical production of pregnant mare's urine also qualify.

Most of Saskatchewan and four regional districts in British Columbia are also eligible for the program.

Contact: *Paul E. Gervais*
556-4240

Jim Yarotski
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Farm tax benefits in federal mini-budget

Three items related to tax credits, unemployment insurance and home buying in the recent federal mini-budget will be of particular interest to farmers says an Alberta Agriculture farm business tax specialist.

"These three items are actually good news," says Paul Gervais of the farm business management branch in Olds.

A temporary 10 per cent non-refundable small business investment tax credit is available for eligible machinery and equipment acquired after December 2, 1992 and before December 31, 1993.

"This tax credit is applied against federal income tax to reduce the amount of tax paid," says Gervais. "The tax credit can be carried forward 10 years or carried back three years."

Individual farmers, partnerships and farm corporations are eligible for this tax credit. The exception is large farm corporations subject to the large corporation tax.

Machinery and equipment eligible for this investment tax credit will be the same as in a similar program in place before 1987 with some exceptions. Buildings, grain bins, trucks under 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight, automobiles and leased property aren't eligible for this tax credit. "But most other farm machinery and equipment will qualify," Gervais says.

Also part of the economic and fiscal statement was an unemployment insurance (U.I.) premium holiday for employers hiring additional workers in 1993. The federal government will pay the 1993 employer share of any additional unemployment insurance premiums up to a maximum of $30,000.

"Effectively, this caps U.I. premium costs at 1992 levels for any small business expanding its labour force in 1993," says Gervais. "Employee premiums will be unchanged."

Any incorporated or unincorporated business whose employer share of U.I. premiums in 1992 was less than $60,000 will be eligible. "This means many farms and agribusinesses could qualify," notes Gervais. As well, anyone starting a new business in 1993 and hiring more workers will also benefit from this program he adds.

As well, the Home Buyers' Plan was extended to March 1, 1994. This plan allows people to withdraw up to $20,000 from their registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) to buy a home. "This may of interest to any farm family planning to build a new home," notes Gervais.

The RRSP must to repaid in equal installments over a 15 year period. Gervais adds if funds are withdrawn before March 2, 1993, the home must be purchased before October 1, 1993.

More details and application forms are available at Revenue Canada district taxation offices.

Contact: *Paul E. Gervais*
556-4240

Symposium looks at matching beef cattle to environments

Cow-calf operators today can be so overwhelmed by the flood of financial, marketing and production information, that it's hard to know what details are important for managing their cow-calf enterprise.

Alberta Agriculture specialist, John Basarab, will discuss this topic at a two-day educational symposium that will be held in Phoenix, Arizona on January 25 and 26 and again in Calgary on January 28 and 29.

The symposium, "Matching beef cattle to western environments", focuses on climatic, genetic, marketing and management environments. It features speakers from universities, research stations, government extension, ranches and private industry in

Cont'd on page 3

Alberta, Montana, New Mexico, Washington, Colorado and Texas. The symposium is hosted by the Western regional co-ordinating committee for beef cattle genetics, a group of beef cattle geneticists in Western Canada and the U.S.

"With so much technical information available, it becomes difficult for cow-calf managers to decide what is important and how it should be integrated into their operation. We're looking at ways to help decide what is most important," he says. "We've been looking at production and management information through surveys to find which factors most affect production efficiency and profitability."

Basarab will outline what research has shown him to date. "We have seen on the financial management side there may be three or four simple indicators that best reflect profitability. For example, the cost of feed and interest paid on debt. On the production side, the GOLD indicators [growth, open cows, length of calving season and death loss of calves] appear to be critical elements.

"Our goal is to truly determine the most important things a cow-calf manager should look for and do to be successful in his business," he says.

Among the other Alberta representative speakers at the symposiums are three researchers from the Agriculture Canada research station in Lethbridge. David Bailey will discuss matching cattle to cold environments. Tim McAllister's topic is genetic and environmental factors affecting rumen microflora, while Glenn Coulter will deal with genetic and environmental factors affecting reproduction.

The only difference in the two symposiums is the session on matching cattle to economic environments. In Phoenix, all the speakers will be from the U.S. In Calgary, the speakers are from Alberta. They include Anne Dunford, Canfax analyst, and Steve Jones, an Agriculture Canada researcher from Lacombe, who will discuss the grading system's effects on marketing beef. There will also be a panel presentation on marketing environments from production chain perspectives. Speakers will be a cattle feeder, a packer, a processor and a consumer.

For registration and other information, contact David Bailey in Lethbridge at 327-4561.

Contact: Dr. John Basarab
427-5083

Cropping system workshops coming to the northwest

An interest in direct seeding has prompted three cropping systems workshops for the province's northwest region in early February.

The workshops in Barrhead on February 1, Morinville on February 2 and Spruce Grove on February 3 will examine a number of issues related to direct seeding says Bill Chapman, Alberta Agriculture regional crop production specialist.

"The workshops have been designed to present various proven methods of direct seeding, reduced tillage and weed control from the Peace River region, central Alberta and northeastern Saskatchewan," says Chapman.

Workshops will start with a discussion of the long term benefits of direct seeding with Jack Dobb, a specialist with the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries based in Dawson Creek.

Also speaking from a Peace perspective is Henry Graw of Manning. Graw, a former soil conservation farmer of the year and current Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) director, will talk about his costs and experiences with direct seeding. He farms three sections in the Manning area north of Peace River.

"Henry has been direct seeding since 1984 with a drill he built himself a year earlier," notes Chapman.

Two other producers will also share their experiences at the workshop. Ken Eshepter will be at the Barrhead and Morinville workshops. He helped organize the Battle River Applied Research Association and participated in the Flagstaff Reduced Agricultural Tillers. Brian Rosemahl who farms near Viking began using reduced tillage in 1987. Their operation is a mixed farm combining grain and a cow/calf operation. He will speak at the Spruce Grove workshop.

Murray Green, an Alberta Agriculture farm machinery specialist, will talk about equipment, in particular seeding system alternatives.

Another out-of-province perspective comes from Gary Meier, a Saskatchewan specialist. Meier will address direct seeding management practices including weed control, straw residue and crop rotations.

Equipment from local dealers will also be on display adds Chapman. The day long workshops are at the Barrhead Inn on February 1, the Morinville Rec Centre on February 2 and the Spruce Grove Motor Inn on February 3. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m.

The workshops are sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Association of Neerlandia, zone three of the Alberta Pulse Growers Association and the agricultural service boards of Barrhead, Sturgeon and Parkland.

For more information on the workshops, contact the following Alberta Agriculture district offices: Allan Macauley in Barrhead at 674-8213; John Hladky in Morinville at 939-4351; or, Ty Faechner at 963-6101 in Stony Plain.

Contact: Bill Chapman
674-8259

Think marketing at MAC'93 day three

In tough economic times one key to surviving may be a broad understanding and use of marketing says an Alberta Agriculture

Cont'd on page 4

farm business management specialist.

"With that in mind, day three of this year's Managing Agriculture Conference (MAC) is devoted to that side of your business operation," says Doug Barlund, who is also project leader for MAC'93.

Conference participants will have a choice of sessions that discuss marketing principles, livestock and crop market outlooks and a more in-depth look at speciality markets.

One of the featured speakers is Ken Stickland, president of an Edmonton based agricultural consulting company. Stickland will discuss hands-on marketing in a morning keynote address titled "think marketing". Later on in the day's agenda he'll discuss making a marketing plan.

Doug Walkey, an Alberta Agriculture regional marketing economist, will help conference participants by describing "tools of the trade". "Marketing can seem intimidating with terms such as forward contracting and futures marketing. Doug has a practical approach for understanding basic tools of marketing," says Barlund.

As well, two well-known market analysts will provide short term market outlooks. Anne Dunford, senior market analyst for Canfax, will look at livestock, while Errol Anderson, manager of Palliser Commodities Corporation, will tackle the crops side.

Two speakers will also share their expertise in developing and marketing specialized products. Donna Messer will discuss "futuristic foods" by looking at food trends for the future and how to tap into those new non-traditional markets. In an "especially speciality" session Roy Carr explores the value added potential of Western Canadian crops in such non-food products as baby powder from oats, printing ink from canola and ethanol from wheat.

The topic of marketing and business operations will also be discussed from the family business perspective. "Casey van Maris from Parklane Nurseries will highlight experiences from his 36 years in a family business," notes Barlund. "In his session he'll talk about the importance of the business attitude and how to extend business knowledge to the next generation."

MAC'93 is the 16th annual management conference offered by Alberta Agriculture for farm families. This year's theme is "a time for change". Each day the conference will feature a different aspect of change. Day one is on family business ownership, day two on planning and leadership skills, and day three on business operations, particularly marketing.

Farm couples are encouraged to attend the conference together. "Our registration rates reflect our hope the farm team comes to the conference. Registration for a couple—and that includes all the meals—is $275. A single registration is $175," notes Barlund.

A new registration feature for 1993 is single day registration he adds. The cost is $75 per person.

MAC'93 is sponsored by a number of organizations, agencies and businesses. They include the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), Alberta 1st Call, Alberta Government Telephones (AGT), Alberta Pool, Alberta Treasury branches, the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, DowElanco, Esso Petroleum, the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC), IBM Canada, JI Case, KenAgra Management Services, Monsanto, Nova Corporation, Peat Marwick Thorne, the Royal Bank, Rubbermaid Agriculture Products, the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA), Scotia Bank, Toronto Dominion Banks, Transalta Utilities, the United Farms of Alberta (UFA), the United Grain Growers (UGG) and Westco Fertilizer.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices and from Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) loan officers. Or, for more information, contact Barlund or Trish Pannell at the farm business management branch in Olds, at 556-4276, or write, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

Contact:	*Doug Barlund*	*Trish Pannell*
	556-4245	*556-4276*

Rural Crime Watch provincial workshop Feb. 5-6

Rural Crime Watch association members from across Alberta will gather in Nisku in early February for the annual provincial workshop.

"As with workshops in the past, speakers will discuss ways rural residents and police forces can work together to prevent crime," says Cliff Munroe of the Alberta Farmers' Advocate's office. "The provincial meeting is also an opportunity to share ideas," he adds.

Among the topics on the workshop agenda are prevention of automobile thefts, the role of the RCMP in crime prevention with crime watch associations, protecting the scene of a crime, the Witness Evidence and Disclosure Act, and an update and ideas session .As well, delegates will discuss a number of resolutions put forward by member associations. If passed, resolutions are presented to appropriate government departments.

Dick Fowler, Alberta's new Minister of Justice, is also scheduled to speak to the workshop about the Young Offenders Act. The new justice ministry combines the former Attorney General and Solicitor General offices.

Awards for the provincial student poster contest will be also presented on the morning of February 6. A display area is also part of the workshop says Munroe. "These will include security companies, government displays such as our own Farmers' Advocate information, the Alberta Cattle Commission and the RCMP."

"Registration is limited," notes Munroe. "There are spaces for only 350 people. The final registration date is January 22."

The 1993 workshop is hosted by the Leduc Crime Watch Association. For more information, contact Edna Wesenberg at 986-2398, Glenn Glasere at 986-3790, or Constables Gary Duffett or Barbara Stewart at 986-2258.

Contact:	*Cliff Munroe*	*Edna Wesenberg*
	427-2433	*986-2398*

Agri-News briefs

Grain World'93 in Winnipeg Jan. 24-26

An economic conference on the grain industry will be held in Winnipeg January 24 through 26. Grain World '93 is sponsored by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and Agriculture Canada. Among the topics on the conference agenda are long term prospects for the international agricultural economy and the general Canadian Prairie economy as well as specifically the agricultural economy. For more information on the conference, contact the CWB in Winnipeg or in Alberta, call David Walker at 427-5387.

Dairy Association convention and annual meeting Feb. 1-3

The Alberta Dairy Association will hold its 85th provincial convention and 72nd annual meeting February 1 through 3 in Calgary. The conference will start with a presentation on its theme, "the consumers, at the heart of our industry". The speaker is Canadian businessman Mel Cooper. Among the session topics are farm safety, transitions in the provincial agriculture department's dairy division, what's new at the milk office, dairy policy and international issues, flexible manufacturing, a GATT and NAFTA update and a producer information session from the Alberta Milk Producers Society. Producer awards will be presented at a recognition luncheon on February 2 and processor awards at the February 3 luncheon. There is a choice of registering for the full convention for just Tuesday's program. For more information, contact the association in Edmonton at 455-5164 or FAX 453-2669.

Western Economic Conference on the Food Industry

The Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry will be held February 7 and 8 in Edmonton. Among the conference topics are managing in a changing marketplace, Creating Tomorrow, strategic alliances and meeting the challenges in product development and marketing. There is a registration discount before January 20 and also discounts for three or more persons from one organization. For more information, contact the Rural Education and Development Association in Edmonton at 451-5959 or FAX 452-5385.

Alberta Seed Growers meet Feb. 2-4

The Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will hold its 64th annual meeting in Banff February 2 through 4. Business meeting activities will take up most of the conference including reports, elections and resolutions. New bylaws will also be voted on. Speakers will address some issues of interest during the rest of the meeting. The keynote speaker is Henry Martynse who will look at authorized establishment revisions from a seed grower's perspective. New seed varieties is another topic on the agenda. An awards luncheon concludes the meeting. For more information, contact Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at 782-4641.

REA convention Feb. 3-5

The Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations (REAs) will hold its 1993 convention in Edmonton February 3 through 5. The convention theme is "country power pioneering the future". For more information, contact the association office in Edmonton at 454-7691.

Making $ sense of records seminars

One of the first seminars offered through a new federal provincial farm management initiatives will start later this week. Serecon, an agricultural consulting firm, will be offering a two-part series of workshops/seminars throughout the province. The seminars are designed to improve financial management through a better understanding of financial and production records. In the first workshop participants will be given a questionnaire booklet to provide confidential financial and production information about their operation. In the second seminar, participants review the results. The first part of the seminar runs in January and the second in March. In total they will take about 12 to 14 hours. The January seminars will be held January 5 through 20 at a number of communities around the province. The locations include St. Paul, Drumheller, Stony Plain, Lacombe, Three Hills, Westlock, Barrhead, Lethbridge, Falher, Vermilion and Fairview. For more information contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office, local Farm Credit Corporation office, or Serecon in Edmonton at 448-7440 or FAX 421-1270.

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January 11, 1993

Three new members for Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame

Three people with 96 years of 4-H involvement between them have been inducted into Alberta's 4-H Hall of Fame.

Herman Grosfield of Brooks, Elizabeth Buday of Tilley and Cecil Anderson of Kathyrn were honored for their service to 4-H at a ceremony last weekend at the 51st annual provincial 4-H leaders conference. These three inductees bring the Hall of Fame membership total to 38.

"All three of these long time 4-H supporters have shown their commitment to the 4-H movement and the youth of their community and province in many ways," says Ted Youck, head of the 4-H branch.

Of the three, Grosfield has the longest association with 4-H. He began as an assistant 4-H leader with the John Ware 4-H Beef Club in 1951. He kept that role for 28 years.

He was also a founding member of the Newell 4-H District Council and a representative on the Southern Regional 4-H Council. His involvement also extended to provincial 4-H organizations. He has served as a director of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta since 1982.

Grosfield has also been very active in another rural youth organization as well as in his community. As a director on the international board of the International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA), the Canadian Host Families Association and the IAEA Foundation of Canada, he travelled to many parts of the world. The Grosfields also hosted international trainees for seven years.

In his community Grosfield has been a member of service clubs, church and other local organizations. The Eastern Irrigation Agricultural Society presented him an award for 28 years of service.

Elizabeth Buday, one of 1992's other honorees, served on the Newell District Council Grosfield helped to found. Over the past 20 years she's held all the executive positions on the council. Her involvement with 4-H started as an interested parent in 1964 when her daughter became a member. Five years later Buday became the leader of the Tilley 4-H Multi-Club, a position she continues to hold.

Buday has also been involved in regional and provincial 4-H organizations. She has been a member of the Southern Regional Council for 14 years providing her expertise on 4-H homemaking projects.

At the provincial level, she has served on both the Alberta 4-H Council (including a term as president) and the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

Aside from her 4-H involvement, Buday has found time to help with many other community organizations. She is also well-known for her weekly five minute radio spot "What's Happening in Tilley".

This year's third inductee is also from southern Alberta. Cecil Anderson was a member of a junior grain club in the 1930s. As with Buday, his involvement with 4-H started when his children joined a local club in 1964. Today Anderson's grandchildren are 4-H members.

In 1968 he became the leader of the Balzac Field Crops Club and also was a member of the adult committee of the Irricana Beef Club. Through his volunteer involvement with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association, the beef club's

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Three new members for Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame 1

Farm safety program launches new promotion at Unifarm convention 2

Shared agriculture wildlife landscape featured in art competition 2

January 29 application deadline for new conservation program 3

Video package delves into farm diversification 3

Alberta Agriculture appointment 4

Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

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achievement day was moved to Stampede Week and eventually became what is today 4-H on Parade.

As with other Hall of Fame inductees, Anderson's commitment to 4-H went beyond the club level. He was president of the Calgary Regional 4-H Council and became a member of the provincial council in 1971. During his years with the provincial council he served as president from 1978 through 1980. He also served as a director of the Alberta 4-H Foundation. He was a foundation board member when land was purchased and funds raised for the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake.

Anderson has also been active in agricultural and community organizations. He was a founding member of the Calgary chapter of the Canadian Institute of Agrologists. He became a 50-year member in 1992.

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame is located on the second floor of Alberta Agriculture's headquarters building, the J.G. Donoghue Building, at 7000-113 Street in Edmonton.

Contact: Mahlon Weir
422-4444

Farm safety program launches new promotion at Unifarm convention

In the spirit of the popularity of both game shows and trading cards, Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program is launching a new safety promotion at the Unifarm convention on January 14 in Edmonton.

"The new promotion tool is what we're calling the Farm Safety Challenge Series," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of the department's farm safety program. "Our launch will be a truly innovative way to get the farm safety message across in an entertaining and effective way."

The challenge series is a table top display. It features cards in eight farm safety categories. The visible side has an answer, and the reverse a farm safety question.

"The challenge display will be at the convention trade show. We'll be asking delegates to sign up for the chance to be one of 10 contestants to 'come on down' for a special farm safety challenge contest at the convention's luncheon on Thursday, January 14," he says. "As the display will be up, potential contestants can prepare ahead of time for the questions."

Kyeremanteng says organizers hope to make this safety launch a fun event. "We're promoting the contest in the delegate's convention package telling them how they can avoid the "Wheel of (Mis)fortune", not to put their chances in "Jeopardy" and as there's no entry fee, "The Price is Right". There will be a contest host and our own version of Vanna White," he adds.

The 10 contestants will have a chance to win a variety of prizes all related to farm safety. As the contest has a "knock-out" format, the first person out receives one prize and the grand prize winner will receive 10.

After this launch, Farm Safety Challenge Series displays will go to each of Alberta Agriculture's six regions. "The display may be found in the regional office, or may travel to district offices and events around the region," says Kyeremanteng.

"We're excited not only about the unique launch of this program, but also about how it will work in Alberta Agriculture offices," he adds. "Anyone who takes time to familiarize themselves with the questions on the challenge cards—whether at a convention or waiting for an appointment at a department office—is a winner. They will be that much more aware of farm safety and in that way, perhaps their prize will be life."

For more information on the challenge series launch, or the display, contact Kyeremanteng or Jacqueline Galloway in Edmonton at 427-2186.

Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng Jacqueline Galloway
427-2186 427-2186

Shared agriculture wildlife landscape featured in art competition

Alberta artists are being called to capture the province's unique landscape blend of agriculture and wildlife.

"The art competition is part of 1993 National Soil Conservation Week activities in Alberta," say Barb Shackel, conservation awareness specialist with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. National Soil Conservation Week is April 19 through 25.

"It's a very original way to draw attention to the positive interaction between agriculture and wildlife in Alberta. Soil conservation practices such as field shelterbelts and conservation tillage are agricultural practices in harmony with wildlife habitat," she adds. "We're hoping people will look at the landscape and see the positive things farmers are doing to protect and enhance wildlife."

The winning entry will be reproduced as a limited edition print and used to raise awareness of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in Alberta adds Shackel. The contest is sponsored by NAWMP and its Alberta partners including Ducks Unlimited, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the former provincial Forestry, Lands and Wildlife department and Alberta Agriculture.

The art contest is open to both amateur and professional artists who are residents of Alberta. However, individuals are limited to a single entry and recent work is preferred. There is no entry fee and the closing deadline is April 2, 1993. Each submission should be in a medium suitable for print reproduction. The maximum size is 24 inches by 30 inches (unframed).

"The winner will be announced and a $1,000 cash prize presented at opening ceremonies of the national awareness week in Calgary on April 19," notes Shackel.

Cont'd on page 3

Honorable mentions will be given to second and third prize winners. As well, a juried exhibition of the entries will be set up in Bow Valley Square in Calgary during April.

Submissions should be framed and ready for hanging and packaged properly for transportation. The submission should also include the artist's resume.

Submissions can be mailed to: NSCW Art Competition, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Regional Centre, Bag #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T4B 2C1. Entries can also be dropped off at Alberta Agriculture regional offices in Lethbridge, Airdrie, Red Deer, Vermilion, Barrhead and Fairview.

For more information, contact Donna Fleury in Airdrie at 948-8549.

Contact:	*Barb Shackel* *422-4385*	*Donna Fleury* *948-8549*

January 29 application deadline for new conservation program

The farm-based program of the new Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) has an application deadline of January 29, 1993.

"This particular program, one of five in CAESA, continues and expands on the soil conservation activities initiated through the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI)," says Randy Bjorklund, provincial CAESA co-ordinator.

Projects eligible for funding include: on-farm, municipal and group planning; on-farm demonstrations and field trials; purchase/lease of equipment for demonstrations/trials; courses, meetings, tours and field days; and, awareness and labor costs to support these activities.

All agricultural service boards and legally incorporated local and provincial agricultural organizations are eligible for the farm-based program. Funding is available for four years, from April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1997. "Applicants are required to develop a four year environmentally sustainable agriculture strategic plan," says Bjorklund. Applicants must contribute at least 20 per cent of the total annual cost of the project he adds.

The farm based program is the largest of CAESA's five programs with more than $9 million in grants available. The other programs are processing based, resource monitoring, research and public awareness.

"CAESA addresses a broad range of concerns about the impact of farming on the environment," says Bjorklund. The main concerns are: soil and water conservation; protection of surface and ground water quality; and, on-farm pollution and waste management as it affects surface and ground water quality.

Application forms and other information are available from regional conservation co-ordinators at Alberta Agriculture regional offices, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) offices, or Bjorklund in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact:	*Randy Bjorklund* *422-4385*

Video package delves into farm diversification

Alberta Agriculture is trying something new with four of its video tapes. Traditionally, videos have been offered for loan as single titles or as separate units in a series. But in "What Else Can We Do? A Guide to Diversification" comes a radical departure in packaging.

In a single case, "What Else Can We Do? A Guide to Diversification" has four video tapes plus a viewing guide. All the videos deal with diversification and farm business. The four titles are: "What Else Can We Do?"; "Farm Diversification—3 stories"; "A Business in Your Future—A Future in Your Business"; and, "The Rural Boardroom".

"Of the four, only "What Else Can We Do" is a new title", says Ken Blackley, broadcast media branch information officer. "The other three have been available before. But this is the first time they have been presented as a complete unit, supported by each other as well as by written material."

The new title, "What Else Can We Do?", complements the other three. "It features a grain farming couple who explore the need for supplementing their income," says Blackley. "They discover a way to think about diversification options. As well, they learn how to make their choices to best avoid the pitfalls of a wrong decision."

Blackley says he expects the new package to be very popular. "It's very handy to get all this information in one package. Anyone considering diversifying their operation, or in improving their farm business management skills will get a whole lot out of it."

"What Else Can We Do: A Guide to Diversification" is available for loan from any Alberta Agriculture district office, or by writing the Broadcast Media Branch at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

Contact:	*Ken Blackley* *427-2127*

Alberta Agriculture appointment

New district agriculturist in Vegreville

Kent MacDonald is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Vegreville. MacDonald is well acquainted with the job. He has been district agriculturist in Spirit River since 1988. As a district agriculturist he will provide information and programs to producers, farm organizations and agribusiness. MacDonald joined Alberta Agriculture after working as an agrologist with Newfield Seeds in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a BSc in agriculture specializing in crop science and extension. "We look forward to meeting the people in the area," he says of himself and his family as they move from the Peace region to northeastern Alberta. MacDonald grew up in the farm community of Moosomin, Saskatchewan where his father was a veterinarian. He can be reached in Vegreville at 632-5400.

Agri-News briefs

Tewksbury coming to Cattlemen's Corral January 13

Canada's 1992 male athlete of the year will headline the speakers at the third annual Cattlemen's Corral in Lloydminster January 13 and 14. Mark Tewksbury, Canada's first gold medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, is the official spokesman of the Beef Information Centre. He'll tell participants his beef story. Also at the seminar's first day are a session on farming with family and a panel on cow herd maintenance. The "campfire and vittles" banquet features Dale Minnick, humorist and motivational speaker. The seminar's second day has sessions on beef efficiency with ethanol presented by Brad Wildeman, general manager of the Poundmaker operation in Lanigan, Saskatchewan, and a panel discussion on diversified marketing. The latest in livestock equipment and cattle displays will be highlighted at the associated trade show. For more information, contact Val Hanson at (306)825-5571 in Lloydminster.

Pembina Forage Association annual seminar Jan. 13

The Pembina Forage Association will hold its annual seminar January 13 at the Glenreagh Hall. Topics include results of the pasture cost study, a tour of Champion Feeds in Barrhead and Schmidt's Feed and a demonstration of a bale shredder. Participants are encouraged to dress warmly. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. at Glenreagh Hall. The hall is located one mile west of the intersection of Highways 33 and 18 on the north side of Barrhead. Preregister by calling 349-4546 before 4:30 p.m. January 11.

Southern Alberta Conservation Association meeting

The Southern Alberta Conservation Association will hold its annual meeting on February 17. The meeting will be held at the Lethbridge Community College Barn. For more information, contact Lloyd Mercer in Lethbridge at 327-9736.

Cropping workshops in Barrhead, Morinville and Spruce Grove

Direct seeding is the overall theme of a series of three cropping workshops to be held February 1 through 3. The first workshop is in Barrhead, the second in Morinville on February 2 and the final workshop in Spruce Grove on February 3. Speakers will describe various proven methods of direct seeding, reduced tillage and weed control in the Peace River region, central Alberta and northeastern Saskatchewan. Each workshop has the same structure and begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. For more information on the workshops, contact the following Alberta Agriculture district offices: Allan Macauley in Barrhead at 674-8213; John Hladky in Morinville at 939-4351; or, Ty Faechner at 963-6101 in Stony Plain.

Pembina Forage Association annual meeting Jan. 28

The Pembina Forage Association will hold its 1993 annual meeting Thursday January 28. The meeting will be held at Hazel Bluff Hall (six miles west from the intersection of Highways 18, 44 and 794 in Westlock on Highway 18; or 18 miles east of Barrhead on Highway 18.) Registration is at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the meeting. Issues up for discussion include an applied research proposal, the status of pasture projects and the election of new directors. Participants are asked to preregister by 4:30 p.m. on January 26 by calling 349-4546.

Western Barley Growers convention and trade fair Feb. 10-12

The Western Barley Growers Association will hold its 16th annual convention and trade fair in Red Deer February 10 through 12. The convention theme is "freedom for growth?". Among the agenda topics are regulatory challenges, NISA versus private investment, marketing and malt barley. For registration and other information, contact the association's office in Calgary at 291-3630.

SRM annual meeting Feb. 14-19

"Expanding partnerships with continuing success" is the theme of the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 46th annual meeting February 14 through 19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Partnerships for environmental improvement and for sustainable livestock production are two of the agenda topics. Two field tours are available for February 19. One will visit the Bar 15 Ranch that received an SRM excellence in grazing award in 1989. For more information and registration forms, contact SRM headquarters in Denver, Colorado at

(303)355-7070.

Farm ownership series continues in Wetaskiwin

The final two parts of a three part series on farm ownership planning run February 9 and March 12 in Wetaskiwin. The series helps farm families examine choices they have as they plan to bring the next generation into the farm business. The first session, on January 11, looked at financial and insurance needs and options for retirement and farm business operations. The February 9 session looks at the tax and legal implications of transferring ownership. The final session in March looks at "surviving" the transfer. The series is offered through the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Initiative. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Wetaskiwin at 361-1240.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

January 18, 1993

1992 weather challenged Alberta farmers

Alberta's average annual temperature was warmer than normal and total precipitation was below normal says Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's weather resource specialist.

The average annual temperature in 1992, based on data recorded at 31 climate stations across the province, was 1.3°C warmer than the average for the period 1951 through 1980 says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. The climate stations averaged 390.9 mm of precipitation. This total was 46.2 mm below the 1951 to 1980 average of 437.1 mm he adds.

"For Alberta, 1992 was 'warmer' and 'drier' just like 1991," says Dzikowski. "But the real story of the weather's impact on agriculture is found in the monthly data."

Many parts of the province had conditions very different from what the provincial averages portray he adds. "For example, the annual total precipitation at Lac La Biche was 261 mm, 55 per cent of its long term average. Pincher Creek received more than twice that amount, 634.1 mm, which was 117 per cent of its 1951 to 1980 average."

For eight months of 1992 precipitation was within 25 per cent of the long term average (see attached graph). January though June were below normal, with March notably dry. In March the province received an average of 6.4 mm, or only 32 per cent of the long term average. July was average. August, October and December were below normal, while September and November recorded above normal precipitation.

June was 1992's wettest month. An average of 71.2 mm fell that month. This was 97 per cent of the monthly normal.

On the temperature side, 1992 began with temperatures well above normal and ended with below normal temperatures (see attached graph). The first four months of the year were extremely warm. A very warm January—temperatures were 9.2°C above normal—was followed by mild weather in February, March and April. Respectively, temperatures were 4°C, 7.4°C and 2.4°C above normal.

The summer, however, was cool with July through October average temperatures 0.7 to 1.9°C below their long term average. The year ended with a mild November and a very frosty December. December temperatures were 3.7°C below the provincial average for the month.

"Although the provincial averages present a simple overall picture of what happened, a lot of detail that had some serious consequences is missing," says Dzikowski. "An example of this is the dry months of January through May in southern Alberta when precipitation was less than half of normal and drought was really a concern. Fortunately for farmers, the situation took a sharp turn for the better." Southern and south central regions received significant rains in June and July providing adequate moisture for crop growth.

"Unfortunately, the below normal precipitation in June through August was the last thing farmers in northeastern and northwestern Alberta wanted. Particularly dry conditions there diminished crop quality and yields, caused farm water supply shortages and reduced range and pasture productivity," he says.

Dzikowski also notes an unseasonal double cold front swept across Alberta from August 18 through 23, 1992. Snow was reported in most parts of Alberta followed by cooler temperatures.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

1992 weather challenged Alberta farmers 1

Cold December ends 1992 2

Farmer pesticide training popular, effective 3

'92 ideal year for feeder cattle, whither '93? 3

Fed cattle finished '92 on high note 3

Feedgrain price highs likely over 4

New Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development deputy minister 4

Alberta farm management initiative goes ahead 5

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

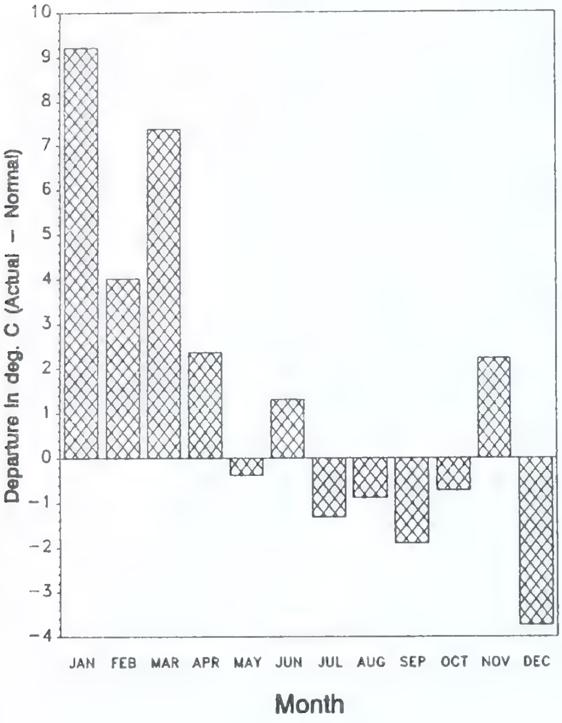
Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

As a result, there were quality losses in grains and yield losses in green crops.

For more information about 1992's weather, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

ALBERTA 1992 TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES
(Average for 31 Climate Stations)



Based on preliminary data from Environment Canada
Normal is defined as the 1951 – 1980 average

Cold December ends 1992

Cold, snowy weather was December 1992 across most of Alberta says Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's weather resource specialist.

"The average monthly temperature, based on 31 weather stations across the province, was -15.4°C. That was 3.8 degrees cooler than the long term average for 1951 through 1980," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

Cold Arctic air covered the province through the month sending temperatures to record low values at several locations. Grande Prairie, for example, recorded a frosty -46.5°C on December 30, 1992.

"December's monthly average temperatures at individual locations ranged from 2.3 to 5.7°C below normal," he adds. "In contrast, December 1991 had average temperatures four degrees warmer than normal."

The cool weather contributed to the average 18.2 mm of precipitation that fell across the province. This was slightly below the monthly long term average of 22.8 mm.

The western part of Alberta and the Peace region received the most precipitation in December says Dzikowski. The highest amount recorded during the month was 38.2 mm at Rocky Mountain House. This was 171 per cent of its normal December total of 22.3 mm. In eastern Alberta, Cold Lake and Lloydminster received 24.6 mm and 23.3 mm respectively. This was about normal for Cold Lake and 126 per cent of the monthly normal for Lloydminster.

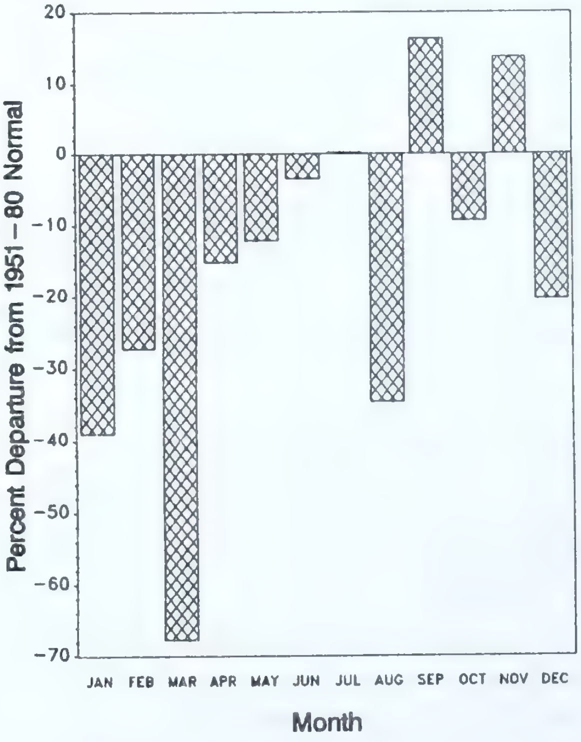
On the temperature side, High Level recorded the coldest average for the month at -22.6°C. "Still, that was only 2.3 degrees colder than normal," says Dzikowski.

The warmest average temperature for the month was -10.3°C recorded at Pincher Creek. That average was 4.9° below normal he says. Lloydminster was 6.1°C below its normal, recording an average temperature of -18.9°C.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

ALBERTA 1992 PRECIPITATION DEPARTURES
(Average for 31 Climate Stations)



Based on preliminary data from Environment Canada

Farmer pesticide training popular, effective

Farmer pesticide certificate training isn't just popular in Alberta's farm community, it's also paying safety dividends.

The course, introduced last year, covers environmental and personal protection, proper application, protecting food from residues and pesticide legislation. About 1,000 farmers took the course through 1991-92. So far this winter, 83 courses have been scheduled across the province.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in co-operation with University of Alberta researchers surveyed farmers who took the course last year. "The survey showed they now use more and better protective gear than the average farmer," says Bertha Eggertson, clothing and textiles specialist with the home economics branch.

"As well, this added protection and increased knowledge was effective in reducing the incidence of poisoning to about half the level the general farm population experienced a year earlier," she adds. Increased use of nitrile gloves, goggles, aprons, disposable coveralls, hard hats and respirators were some of the changes responsible for reducing poisoning symptoms from 11 to 6.6 per cent after people took the training course.

"Overall the incidence of poisonings has dropped from 24 per cent in 1984 to 6.6 per cent in 1992 for participants in the certification program," she says. "While details aren't available on how the new techniques affected other family members, we suspect they also benefited from better handling of contaminated clothing and a general increase in awareness of the dangers that pesticides can present."

"The long term benefits may be even greater because some of the effects of exposure to pesticides may be latent," says Keith Price of the department's plant industry division. "You may not experience any symptoms for a long time after exposure."

The training courses are run in conjunction with Olds College. For the location of a course in your area call Olds College at 556-8355, or contact your local Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development district office.

The income tax deductible course costs $40. A 50 per cent rebate is available to members of the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS). New ACTS members are eligible for the rebate. For more information on the ACTS rebate, contact Russ Evans at 936-5306.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson 427-2412
Keith Price 427-5330

'92 ideal year for feeder cattle, whither '93?

While 1992 was an ideal year to be involved in buying, holding and then selling feeder cattle, the question for 1993 is does it continue says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst.

The prevailing price trend was up through 1992 notes Ron Gietz. "Feeder cattle purchased early in the year could almost always be sold for higher prices later in the year. In central Alberta 500 to 600 lb. steers began 1992 trading around a dollar per pound. By the last sale of 1992, average prices for these calves were around $1.15."

Two popular expressions come to mind when looking ahead at 1993 prices he says: "What goes up must come down" and "It just doesn't get any better".

"Western Canadian feeder cattle prices can't be expected to go higher forever," he says. "One possibility for the future is feeder cattle prices stabilizing at current levels and typical seasonal patterns re-establishing themselves," Gietz says. For example, heavy feeder cattle prices may slump in March and April as in other years, while strong demand for light grass cattle may keep those prices relatively firm.

Gietz predicts that at some point 1993 feeder cattle prices will fall into a lower price trend. "A trend to lower feeder prices may not be triggered until feedlot margins turn generally negative. Given current feeder cattle prices, this probably equates with fed cattle prices in the low $80/cwt. range," he says. "As with the fed cattle market, a lot depends on what happens to the Canadian dollar."

He also notes a surplus of poor quality feed in many Alberta districts could mean a large supply of backgrounded cattle will come onto the market in late winter. "It may be wise to take advantage of a strong market and avoid the late winter surge in supplies by marketing early," he says.

Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

Fed cattle finished '92 on high note

Alberta fed cattle markets definitely finished 1992 on a high note with a record high posted during the final week of the year says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst.

"The past year had a remarkable turnaround in Canadian fed cattle prices," says Ron Gietz. "Ontario prices also closed the year at record highs and Alberta prices were $20/cwt. above their year-ago levels."

Two factors weighted equally in the turnaround between December 1991 and December 1992 prices he says. They were a weak Canadian dollar and a strong U.S. market.

"In December of 1991 the Canadian dollar traded around 87.5 cents U.S. This past December, the average was closer to 78.5 cents U.S. The lower exchange rate accounts for more than $10 of the price difference between 1991 and 1992 prices," he notes.

As well, in December 1991 U.S. fed cattle prices were hovering around the $70/cwt. level. In late 1992, fed cattle prices traded as

Cont'd on page 4

high as $79.50/cwt. "Strong packer demand and good retail movement have helped on the demand side, while lower carcass weights and a series of winter storms have helped support American fed cattle prices from the supply side," Gietz says.

While "weather market" is usually a term associated with the grain trade, it best describes the short term outlook for the U.S. fed cattle market he adds. "As long as major storms continue to sweep through the Great Plains every few weeks, as has been the pattern so far this winter, U.S. prices should remain firmly entrenched in the upper $70 range."

However, if weather patterns moderate and that leads to improved rates of gain in U.S. feedlots, an increased beef supply could gradually drag cattle prices down during the first quarter of 1993.

"Whether good or bad weather, a relatively large price drop is expected in the third quarter this year compared to 1992. The larger summer price decline is anticipated because of higher feedlot inventories going into 1993," he says.

Gietz forecasts an average Alberta Direct Sale Steer price of 89 cents per pound in January, dropping by a cent in February and again in March. The forecast is based on a 78 to 80 cent Canadian dollar and a U.S. fed cattle market of $75/cwt. or higher through the winter months.

"A stronger U.S. market or tight supplies would keep prices high," he says. "However, if the Canadian dollar rallies to 82 or 83 cents by spring, prices will fall."

Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

Feedgrain price highs likely over

Feedgrain price highs for this crop year have probably already come and gone says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst.

"I feel we have seen the highs for the crop year and that's not good news if you're on the selling end," says Larry Ruud.

With heavy feed wheat supplies available, prices will at best remain flat and more likely fall through the remainder of the crop year he adds. "The only relief from a downward trend would be a cold snap—similar to the one over the Christmas holidays—that helps to increase the demand for barley."

In the major barley growing regions of Alberta, the offboard market typically runs at a $10 to $15 per tonne premium to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) he notes. "Consequently, the downside in the market may be $5 to $10 per tonne from current levels. This translates into $90 to $95 per tonne on the Western barley futures."

Feedgrain prices in Canada and elsewhere continue to be pressured by a large U.S. corn crop and heavy feed wheat supplies in Canada, the U.S. and Europe he says. "As a major corn importer, Russia's credit problems will be an important factor in the international market through the remainder of the crop year," he adds.

Resolving credit problems with Russia will also be important in helping to firm wheat prices over the remainder of the crop year. "The former Soviet Union, including Russia, will continue to be a credit dependent market for the foreseeable future."

The world scene suggests 1992-93 global wheat prices similar to the previous crop year. "This means at their current levels, CWB initial payment have room to rise," he says.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

New Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development deputy minister

A new deputy minister has been named to replace Ben McEwen who retired from the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development post at the end of 1992.

C.D. (Doug) Radke, a long time department employee and most recently an assistant deputy minister since 1982, was named the new deputy minister by Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's minister.

"I was very pleased to promote Mr. Radke to the position of deputy minister. He has already served the agriculture and food industry in Alberta and Canada for many years, and I'm sure will continue to provide leadership and excellence in his new posting," says Isley. "His familiarity with policy planning, economics and transportation will be very beneficial in the years ahead."

Radke first worked for the department between 1968 and 1975 including stints as secretary and member of the Alberta Agriculture Marketing Council and as executive assistant to Agriculture Minister Hugh Horner between 1973 and 1975.

Between 1975 and 1979 he worked for Alberta Transportation including a four year stint as chairman of the Alberta Motor Transport Board. He then moved to Winnipeg and served as deputy co-ordinator and then acting co-ordinator of the federal Grain Transportation Agency. He returned to Alberta Agriculture in 1982 as the assistant deputy minister of planning, economics and administration. His duties later expanded to cover planning and development sectors of the department.

"I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are ahead in Alberta's agriculture and food industry," says Radke. "The global economy, trade issues, national policy strategies, continued development of our value-added sector, healthy rural communities and continuing excellence in primary production will be priorities," he adds.

Radke was born and grew up in central Alberta. His undergraduate education was at the University of Alberta where he obtained a BA in political science and economics. He also holds a masters degree in public administration from Carleton

Cont'd on page 5

University in Ottawa. He is married and has two children.

Radke replaces Ben McEwen who had been with Alberta Agriculture for 17 years, and as deputy minister for the last 11 years. While McEwen retired from the public service, he says he will continue to work in the agri-food industry in a consulting role.

Isley says McEwen made significant contributions to the industry while he served as deputy minister. He cites his work in provincial and national agriculture policy and the current "Creating Tomorrow" consultation process.

Contact: Doug Radke 427-2145
Dwight Dibben 427-2137

Alberta farm management initiative goes ahead

A new three-year agreement will provide $10.4 million in funds for programs to improve farm business management skills of Alberta producers.

"The Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) is an opportunity for many Alberta farm families to learn how to incorporate practical farm management skills into their farming operations," says Anita Lunden, FBMI provincial co-ordinator.

The program meshes the efforts of government and private industry to provide farm business management training, services and information to the farm community.

The Alberta agreement is part of the National Farm Business Management program. Over the next three years, the Alberta program will receive $5.2 million in federal funding. The province will match this funding through new or existing farm management training programs.

"This new agreement allows us to continue to expand the management training established in previous programs," says Ernie Isley, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. He signed the agreement with former federal agriculture minister Bill McKnight. "Farmers will learn more about production, financial, marketing and human resource management," Isley adds.

"The FBMI program was designed around a survey of 1,000 Alberta farm managers," says Lunden. "The survey helped to determine what needs are out there relating to farm management training in the province." This information, she says, will help in designing programs FBMI offers to Alberta farmers.

A provincial advisory committee, chaired by Gladys Wacowich of Redwater, has farmer, industry, federal and provincial government representatives. This committee, says Lunden, will also provide recommendations and advice on program directions.

Farm management courses, seminars, conferences and consulting services will be available through the FBMI program. Interested participants can sign up through Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development district offices, private sector agencies and Alberta's agricultural colleges.

For more information on the FBMI program in Alberta, call Lunden in Olds at 556-4240.

Contact: Anita Lunden 556-4278
Les Usher 495-5528

Agri-News briefs

More optimism for Canadian hog market in 1993

While the U.S. hog market is expected to follow the same price trend as 1992, the outlook in Canadian markets is definitely more optimistic says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst. "The difference is explained by forecasts of a much lower Canadian dollar compared to the year ago period," says Ron Gietz. His forecast for average producer payment prices for Index 100 hogs in Alberta is $1.30/kg (dressed) for January through March. He projects the price to increase to $1.35 by April and to $1.45 in May. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Lamb market rally in December, prices look good ahead

Lamb markets rallied again in December providing improved prospects for higher prices in 1993 says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst. "This year lamb prices are likely to regain levels not seen in the past few years," says Jo Ann Sandhu. Sandhu also expects Australian mutton and lamb export pressures to North America to ease in the short term. "Reduced imports of offshore mutton and lamb is likely to take the brakes off any upward price movements that occur during the year," she adds. Sandhu projects Alberta slaughter lamb prices in the $77 to $88/cwt. range through January, moving higher in February to an $81 to $85 range, and still higher in March to

Cont'd on page 6

between $83 and $87/cwt. "These projections assume no change in Canada-U.S. exchange rates from the current level," she adds. For more information, contact Sandhu in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Low oil U.S soybean crop good news for canola

A reduced oil content in this year's U.S. soybean crop is good news for competing oilseeds such as canola says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst. "While this situation will help firm oil prices, the downside is that it could limit a spring rally in U.S. soybean futures as demand moves from the U.S. to a new South American crop," says Larry Ruud. Currently the South American soybean crop, he adds, appears to be in good shape. Domestic demand for canola remains strong in Canada. In the export market, Japan hasn't been as actively purchasing canola as it was during harvest. "With their active buying during last fall, they may not be a significant buyer in the market over the remainder of the crop year," he says. Canola prices in Canada have remained strong. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Forage seed production suffers from weather damage

August frost and other localized problems including dryness in Western Canada caused severe and widespread damage to the 1992 forage seed crop says an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development market analyst. "Agriculture Canada's 1992 forage seed production estimate confirmed the damage," says Al Dooley. "Production in all provinces was affected and overall 1992 production was less than 25 per cent of the 1987 to 1991 average." Dooley notes grower prices have been fairly steady over the past weeks. "But there is concern about the slow buyer interest, particularly for creeping red fescue," he adds. "Trade into the U.S. market has been slow and processors have large stocks on hand." For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Lacombe pulse crop update February 17

Anyone interested in pulse crops can be updated at a seminar February 17 in Lacombe. The day long workshop looks at a variety of topics in the industry. On the agenda are: varieties and management; an Alberta Pulse Growers Commission update; a Farming for the Future report; the Agriculture Canada Pulse Crop Development program; pulses as annual forages; industry reports; weed control in pulse crops; and, a market outlook for pulse crops. The $10 registration fee covers lunch. Cheques can be made payable to Zone 2, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. The update will be held at the Agriculture Canada Research Station library. The station is located on the south side of Lacombe. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Lacombe district office at 782-3301 or 340-7161.

26th annual Canola Council of Canada convention March 15-17

The Canola Council of Canada will hold its 26th annual convention March 15 through 17 at Newport Beach, California. Under the theme of "lifestyles and opportunities" convention speakers will discuss topics such as canola positioning in the U.S. market, designer canola, labeling issues and common sense nutrition. For more information, contact the council office in Winnipeg at (204)944-9494.

Crop production workshop Jan. 27 in Oyen

The Chinook Applied Research Association is hosting a crop production workshop January 27 at the Seniors' Recreation Centre in Oyen. Topics on the workshop agenda are: marketing strategies for lentils, canola and feed wheats; sunola; water quality for spraying and future herbicide development; developments in farm machinery; and, biological control of pests. Chemical, seed and fertilizer companies will also have displays. For more information, contact Andrea Lowther at 664-3777 in Oyen.

4-H leaders "Go for Future"

More than 340 volunteer 4-H leaders were provided encouragement to go for the future at the recent 1993 provincial 4-H Leader's Conference. Conference sessions focused on topics to assist leaders with club activities and working with youth. As well, feature speaker Tim Ball looked to the future climate and environment by assessing past conditions. Three people were also inducted into the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame. They were Cecil Anderson of Kathyrn, Herman Grosfield of Brooks and Elizabeth Buday of Tilley. Delegates came from across Alberta as well as the other three Western provinces and Montana. Montana delegates have been part of an on-going exchange since 1964. Thirty of the Western Canadian delegates had attended a "Rural Realities" conference at the Alberta 4-H Centre in Battle Lake before the provincial conference. Sponsored through the Canada/Alberta Agri-Food Development Initiative, Rural Realities focused on agri-food issues such as value-added products, food safety and product development. For more information, contact Mahlon Weir in Edmonton at 427-2541, or Marguerite Stark in Airdrie at 948-8511.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

January 25, 1993

Check your bulls for frostbite

While most Albertans worry about frostbite to their toes and noses, cattle producers have an extra concern with their bulls.

"The severe weather in most of Alberta during December and January can cause minor to major degrees of scrotal frostbite," says Cornelia Kreplin a reproductive specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

"It can happen to bulls of all ages, whether or not the bull has had bedding or shelter during the extreme cold," she adds. The testicles are extremely sensitive to temperature changes. Sperm production and abnormal sperm cell structure can result.

Frost causes two temperature extremes in the scrotum. The first extreme is "supercooling" at the onset of the frostbite. The second extreme is "superheating" as the tissue thaws and inflammation occurs. Supercooling is typically short, while the superheating can last 10 days after the initial injury.

Kreplin advises farmers to check their bulls for signs of damage. Blisters and scabs will be obvious for about three weeks after the frostbite happens. Scabs will fall off in about a month, leaving reddish-pink scar tissue.

If there is evidence of frostbite, the second thing to check is the extent of the injury. Only the tip of the scrotum is frostbitten in many cases. "Permanent damage to the testicles isn't likely in these mild cases," she says.

If bulls have more extensive frostbite, the chances of permanent injury or delayed fertility are increased. "There are no definitive studies on specific adverse effects of frostbite on breeding soundness. But, the severity of the frostbite and the length of time between the frostbite and the start of the breeding season would determine any effect on fertility."

She suggests farmers, or their veterinarians, should check for potential adhesions or scar tissue in the tail of the epididymis, the sperm cords lying on the bottom of the testicles.

Damaged testicles will produce abnormal sperm cells that will be obvious in a semen sample she says. In severe cases, the sperm producing cells in the testicles degenerate or die, and these "giant cells" will appear in the semen.

The current recommendation is to wait about 40 days from the initial frostbite before taking a semen sample to determine if sperm cell structure has been permanently affected.

"Producers will have to make management decisions based on the severity of the frostbite, the absence or presence of adhesions and any abnormalities present in the semen test," she says.

"Producers should check the breeding soundness of all bulls they plan to use for breeding," Kreplin stresses. Breeding soundness evaluations (BSE) can be done by a qualified veterinarian.

"The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association is currently promoting breeding soundness evaluations. Producers are encouraged to watch their local paper for more information on bull evaluations," adds John Basarab, the department's beef management specialist.

Contact: *Cornelia Kreplin* *Dr. John Basarab*
422-1889 *427-5083*

FEB

This Week

Check your bulls for frostbite 1

Hard hats slowly replacing fabric caps 2

Course builds pesticide safety awareness 2

Creating Tomorrow yields better communication, strategies for future 3

Financial security through planning 3

Farmers' surface rights and oil and gas well sites 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Hard hats slowly replacing fabric caps

Fabric baseball caps are coming off and more farmers are wearing hard hats when working with pesticides says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"While there's still a lot of room for improvement, the message to wear a hard hat instead of the potentially harmful fabric cap is getting through," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textile specialist with the home economics branch.

"The Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program has been key," she adds. The course's first 1,000 participants were surveyed last year after taking the training. Before the training only 13 per cent wore hard hats when mixing and spraying pesticides. After the course, 32 per cent wore hard hats.

"Only three per cent of farmers in our 1991 random survey wore hard hats," says Eggertson, "So, the training course has proven farmers are taking this safety message seriously. However, some habits, particularly the fabric baseball cap, are hard for farmers to break."

A fabric cap can absorb pesticide spray and dust, then is a continual source of contamination as long the farmer wears it. Because the head area has one of the highest chemical absorption rates, the potential for pesticide poisoning is greatly increased by the constant exposure.

Hard hats are recommended instead, because they both deflect the spray and dust away from the head and they are also easier to decontaminate.

"One of the course participants commented he kept the same baseball cap to wear only during the pesticide application season. While he wasn't contaminating all his caps, he still was putting himself at risk," notes Eggertson.

"While we're encouraged with the results we're seeing in the changes of farm practices from wearing more protective clothing to how pesticide soiled clothing are laundered, there's still education and research necessary," she says.

"Obviously the training courses and other awareness programs are delivering the message about exposure. However, some farmers find hard hats uncomfortable. There is another option, a hood on a disposable coverall."

More than 80 of the certificate programs are scheduled across Alberta this winter. They are available through Olds College (call 556-8355) and Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

Course builds pesticide safety awareness

A recent survey shows frequency of poisoning symptoms among farmers who apply pesticides has been dropping since they were first surveyed in 1984.

In that first survey by University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture, 24 per cent of farmers said they'd experienced poisoning symptoms such as nausea and headaches. That number dropped to 11 per cent in 1991.

"And the number dropped still further when they surveyed farmers who took the new Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program introduced last February," says Keith Price of the department's plant industry division. "Only 6.6 per cent of the course participants surveyed reported poisoning symptoms."

"While many of these poisonings were mild, they indicate some farmers are practising improper handling techniques or are neglecting their personal safety," he adds.

The Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program is the latest effort to educate farm families about protective clothing and pesticide safety. More than 80 program courses are scheduled so far in 1993. At the course, participants learn about how pesticides can affect them and their families, the environment, and the weeds, insects and other pests they want to control.

This course follows concerted efforts in the early 1980s by the Crop Protection Institute and Alberta Agriculture to get more farmers to use protective gloves when they handled pesticides. At the same time, Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta worked on researching protective clothing, and their recommendations were spread by specialists and district home economists to the farm community.

"Last year about 1,000 farmers took the certification program," says Price. "As a result, more are wearing disposable coveralls, nitrile gloves and respirators. And perhaps most important, they have a new awareness of the hazards that pesticides can present and now know how to reduce both the incidence and severity of poisonings while handling farm chemicals."

The certificate program also teaches participants how to understand the information on pesticide labels, what laws affect their use and how to keep residues out of the food they produce.

The certificate course was developed by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with Olds College. The agriculture industry also provided funding. Farm organizations such as Unifarm and the Alberta Wheat Pool also requested training courses from Shirley McClellan, then associate agriculture minister and current provincial health minister.

The course is offered via Olds College, but is available locally across the province through Alberta Agriculture district offices.

"Farmers who are interested in taking the course this winter should contact Olds College at 556-8355, or their local Alberta Agriculture district office," says Price.

Cont'd on page 3

Price also notes farmers have increased the practice of triple rinsing empty pesticide containers before placing them in special collection sites. "This reduces the chances of environmental contamination and makes containers safe for recycling into fence posts and parking curbs."

Research into recycling containers was a result of a co-operativeprogram between Alberta Environment and the Crop Protection Institute.

Contact: Keith Price 427-5330 Bertha Eggertson 427-2412

Creating Tomorrow yields better communication, strategies for future

Despite the cold outdoors, the nearly 500 participants at the Creating Tomorrow conference left Red Deer with heated intentions to bring positive change to Alberta's agriculture and food industry.

The Creating Tomorrow conference, a consultation process open to all Albertans, looked at a vision, goals and strategies for the agriculture and food industry.

"A vision, goals and some strategies were developed in an early series of meetings across the province during the summer and fall of 1992," says Shirley Myers, chair of the conference planning committee. "The January conference looked even deeper at strategies and action plans for the future," she adds.

Conference registrants, who represented a broad cross section of the industry, discussed not just goals for the industry, but how to achieve a profitable, globally competitive, environmentally sustainable industry that values its people. A large majority of participants, 80 per cent, said they strongly agreed with that overall vision.

The same percentage also strongly agreed with three goals. They were: to improve Alberta's agriculture and food industry's competitive position in domestic and international markets; to sustain the natural resource base and environment; and, to enhance the strengths of the people, families and communities involved in the industry.

Conference work groups used the vision and goals to develop hundreds of different strategies. Ideas ranged through industry driven farm and agri-business training, tax incentives for alternative forms of financing, more and less government regulation, building on current strengths rather than crop diversification, more public education about agriculture and forming alliances built on co-operation and communication among all sectors of the industry.

Myers says the conference was really a start on this last recommendation. "We received a lot of positive feedback on the Creating Tomorrow conference both at the conference and afterwards," says Myers. "That feedback wasn't just for the ideas, but for the concept of bringing together all of the industry stakeholders. Participants said they were glad to see all players in the industry treated as equals. As well, they thought it was a credible process that brought diverse groups together for collaboration."

"The mix of people—farmers, food processors, educators, scientists, consumers, industry supply and service reps, civil servants and politicians—was a real opportunity for many viewpoints to come together. Some people have said the conference not only brought out good ideas for further discussion, but built bridges between groups," says Evelyn Shapka of the planning secretariat.

Conference participants were also united in calling for immediate action. In conference closing remarks and later at the annual Unifarm convention, Ernie Isley, agriculture and rural development minister, offered to form an agriculture and food council if the industry is supportive. This council could assist industry and government in implementing the Creating Tomorrow Strategies.

Copies of the Creating Tomorrow conference results will be available in February. For more information, write or call the planning secretariat in Edmonton. The telephone number is 427-2417, or toll-free through your nearest provincial government RITE centre. The address is: Planning Secretariat, Alberta Agriculture, #301, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Ken Beswick 427-2417 Evelyn Shapka 427-2417

Financial security through planning

Financial security for farm families should be more than a successful next year's crop says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"While financial security means different things to different people—from paid up loans to covering living expenses—it's something you must plan. And it can make a difference in making it through a year with a bad crop on your farm," says Jean Wilson, provincial family resource management specialist with the home economics branch.

For farm families that want to know and learn more about financial planning, Wilson suggests contacting their local Alberta Agriculture district office.

"There are a number of resources available including a factsheet series, a new interactive newsletter series in some offices as well as a number of courses," she says.

Wilson co-authored a "Financial Security and the Farm Family" factsheet series in the late 1980s. The series includes an introduction to financial planning plus individual topics such as budgeting, savings, insurance, wills and credit. District offices have copies of the series.

This year a new interactive newsletter series on family financial security is being introduced in 20 district offices. "This series

Cont'd on page 4

provides more than information, it gives you a worksheet to record your own situation and becomes an all-in-one place for your important information," she says.

Wilson adds the series has been designed specifically for farmfamilies who have families at home, or who are at the stage of starting families. "Financial planning now will make a big difference to your family's future, especially in terms of emergencies when insurance and a will can provide for your family. It also talks about planning for retirement, now. It's never too early to start."

Contact: Jean Wilson
427-2412

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"Families Make a World of Difference"
FAMILY DAY
February 15
1993

Farmers' surface rights and oil and gas well sites

by Clifford W. Downey
Farmers' Advocate of Alberta

[Editor's note: If you use this article, please use the byline.]

With changes in government royalty structures and increasing export prices for natural gas, many Alberta farmers may be approached by oil companies wanting to put a well site on their land.

While surface rights were a hot topic several years ago, some landowners may not be aware of their rights when an oil company approaches them and how compensation is set.

First, you should keep in mind a landowner has a say in where the well site and access road are located. If the location preferred by the oil company is going to significantly disrupt your farming operation, you can have the Energy Resources Conservation Board review the proposed location or alternatives.

Usually the landowner and the oil company are able to agree on the well site location and compensation through a surface lease agreement. If they can't agree, the oil company can go to the Surface Rights Board to obtain a right-of-entry order. This allows the company to enter the land and begin drilling without the consent of the landowner. Compensation is then determined by the Surface Rights Board. The board uses the same factors the landowner and oil company use when access is decided by private negotiation through a surface lease.

There are five categories of compensation. Some are paid only the first year, while others are paid annually.

The Surface Rights Act requires all oil companies pay a $500 per acre entry fee. This fee is paid before companies enter privately-owned land. Also paid only once in the first year, is compensation for value of the land. This is for the market value of the land used for the well site and access road. The market value is based on what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller.

Landowners are also paid for nuisance, inconvenience and general disturbance. This compensation is for things that happen during the construction phase and related activity during the first year. Also included is the time to negotiate with the company representatives, supervision of surveyors and phone calls.

Adverse effects is another compensation category. It's for the negative effects a well site and access road can have on the remaining land in the farming operation. A well site located in the middle of field can change cultivation patterns and increase farming costs. It also includes increased traffic, noise or odors from the well site.

The final category, loss of use, compensates for the loss of crop or the loss of pasture and includes the profit a farmer could have made from the land. The amount of compensation is determined by the amount of crop the area taken for the well site and the access road could reasonably be expected to produce, or the livestock carrying capacity of the land.

Combined loss of use and adverse effects make up the annual compensation paid to the landowner.

There are two other points to keep in mind. First, annual compensation is reviewed every five years. Negotiations can begin after the fourth annual compensation payment is paid. If the landowner and oil company can't agree on a new rate of annual compensation, the issue can be decided by the Surface Rights Board.

Second, landowners can also go to the board if an annual compensation payment isn't received. The company might have gone out of business or might not respond to requests for payment.

The Surface Rights Act states when a landowner isn't paid annual compensation, the Crown may pay the compensation due to the landowner. The Crown then pursues the oil company to recover that payment.

For more information on surface rights, contact the Surface Rights Board in Edmonton at 427-2444, the Farmers' Advocate Office at 427-2433, or your local surface rights organization.

The Alberta Farmers' Advocate can help resolve disputes and act as a mediator. As well, the Farmers' Advocate can provide advice on a varied range of topics. You can call the Farmers' Advocate's office in Edmonton at 427-2433, toll-free through your local government RITE operator.

Contact: Cliff Downey
427-2433

Agri-News briefs

A Taste of Alberta at MAC'93

A food fair extravaganza will showcase Alberta food producers and processors at the Managing Agriculture Conference (MAC'93) on February 1. "The Taste of Alberta event is a great opportunity for the participants of MAC'93 to meet some of Alberta's top food producers," says Trish Pannell, conference co-ordinator. Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley is scheduled to attend. Conference participants will be able to sample products from spinach ravioli and cajun smokies, to Jersey cheddar and tortilla chips. The event is scheduled for Monday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Waskasoo B and C room at the Red Deer Lodge. For more information, contact Trish Pannell in Olds at 556-4276.

1993 seed fair and hay show

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Seed Fair and Hay Show will be held in conjunction with the Calgary Bull Sale February 27 through March 2. The 45th annual seed fair offers classes in pedigreed seed, open seed, hay and silage, sheaf and junior exhibits. Prize money of $7,000 and special awards including a riding mower will be presented. The awards presentation is scheduled for Sunday, February 28 at 2 p.m. in the International Room of the Agriculture Building. For more information, call the agriculture office of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede at 261-0313.

Samples for Northlands Seed Show due February 26

Entries for the Northlands Pedigreed Seed Show must be received by February 26, 1993. Entries include a sample with official germination, crop certificate number and a grade. Exhibitors are only allowed one entry per variety and the pedigreed seed must be from 1992 production. The 10th annual Pedigreed Seed Show runs March 23 through 26 at Northlands AgriCom. For more information, contact Roger Lee, show chairman, at 742-4091.

1992 swine telecourse available

Excerpts from the 1992 version of Purdue University's annual swine production telecourse are now available through Alberta Agriculture's film library. The titles and call numbers are as follows: "Feeding high producing sows", 440-3-1 VT; "Estimating breed value for genetic evaluation, 440-3-2; "STAGES", 440-3-3; "Speeding genetic progress through AI", 440—3-4; "Modified medicated early weaning", 440-3-5; "Processing baby pigs", 440-3-6; "Water", 440-3-7; "Stray voltage:, 440-3-8; "Water quality", 440-3-9; "Determining swine facility needs", 440-3-10; "Electrical wiring", 440-3-11; "Manure storage", 440-3-12; and, "Rodent control", 440-3-13. Each title is available on its own cassette only. Videos may be borrowed by writing the Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Titles can be shipped to the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office for borrower pick-up and return.

Swine Breeders annual meeting Feb. 19-20

The Alberta Swine Breeders Association will hold its annual meeting February 19 and 20 at the North Hill Inn in Red Deer. The theme for the 1993 meeting is the association's future direction, goals and objectives. The first day will concentrate on this theme. Special guest speaker is Garry Clark of Barrhead who will lead the day's discussion. For registration and other information, contact the association office in Leduc at 986-5179.

Midwest Poultry Federation convention

The Midwest Poultry Federation Convention will be held February 17 through 19 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, contact Fred Schuld at the pork and poultry industry branch in Edmonton at 427-5320.

Soft Wheat Producers Commission annual meeting

The Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission annual meeting will be held in Lethbridge on Wednesday, February 24. The meeting is scheduled for the Lethbridge Lodge. For more information, contact Andy Kovacs in Lethbridge at 380-4189.

QUICK REFERENCE CONTACT SHEET FOR RURAL LANDOWNERS

Nature of Problem	Contact Agency	Phone
OIL & GAS WELLS		
• Landowner's rights in choosing location of well-site	Energy Resources Conservation Board	297-8311
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Landowner's rights to compensation	Surface Rights Board	427-2444
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Problems with spills, noise or odours	Energy Resources Conservation Board	297-8311
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Landowner's rights to reclamation of land	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Problems with reclamation	Conservation & Reclamation Council	427-6212
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
PIPELINES		
• Landowner's rights in choosing location of pipeline	Energy Resources Conservation Board	297-8311
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Compensation for signing easement/right-of-way	Surface Rights Board	427-2444
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Oil or gas spills or leaks	Energy Resources Conservation Board	297-8311 427-0200
• Exposed pipelines	Energy Resources Conservation Board	297-8311
• Pipeline rutting, sinking, clean-up or land problems	Conservation & Reclamation Council	427-6212
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Land reclamation	Conservation & Reclamation Council	427-6212
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
SEISMIC OPERATIONS		
• Compensation for signing permit allowing company access	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Damage to land by seismic company	Exploration Inspectors	427-3932
	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
LIVESTOCK		
• Stray animals	Local RCMP	Directory
	Alberta Agriculture	427-5098
• Livestock killed by wild animal	Local Fish & Wildlife Officer	427-3574
	Predator Indemnity Program	427-5083
WATER WELLS		
• Water loss due to nearby oil/gas well drilling	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Water loss due to seismic activity	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
• Water contamination from refined oil or gasoline	Farmers' Advocate	427-2433
FARM EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS	Farm Implement Act Administration	427-2188
	(Olds)	556-4223

Farmers' Advocate of Alberta. October 1992

Phone (403) 427-212

AGRI-NEWS

February 1, 1993

First Rural Crime Watch Week February 1-7

Rural Crime Watch Week has been declared in Alberta for the first time and will run February 1 through 7, 1993.

"Rural Crime Watch has been around since 1979," says Cliff Munroe of Alberta Agriculture's Farmers' Advocate's office. That year the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC), the Western Stock Growers' Association and the Farmers' Advocate's Office joined to put together a crime prevention program for rural Albertans.

Through the program, rural residents form local associations. These associations promote: protecting and securing homes and farm equipment; marking all property for easy identification; and, reporting suspicious vehicles and persons to the local RCMP detachment.

Rural Crime Watch is a spin-off of the urban program Neighborhood Watch notes Munroe. "Like Neighborhood Watch, Rural Crime Watch is about neighbors watching out for each other, and being ears and eyes for the police."

In the last dozen years more than 90 Rural Crime Watch associations have formed across the province. Almost half—40—of them use a new technology, computer fan-out systems. "These systems allow the police to send a voice recorded message to all the association members when a crime occurs, so the trail is fresh when the members get the message," says Munroe.

Each association will contact local media and promote their association and the Rural Crime Watch program during the week. Awareness week activities will conclude on February 6 and 7 with a provincial workshop in Leduc at the Nisku Inn. Its agenda includes visiting dignitaries such as Justice Minister Dick Fowler and other guest speakers.

For more information on the workshop, call Edna Wesenberg at 986-2398. For more information on the Rural Crime Watch program, call Munroe in Edmonton at 427-2433.

Contact: *Cliff Munroe 427-2433* *Edna Wesenberg 986-2398*

Rural child care project releases report

FEB 17 1993

"You only have to sit on a piece of machinery for one day with little ones crying and nagging to go home to know that this project was worth every penny and every ounce of work."

That comment, from one of the parents involved in the 19 projects funded by the Alberta Rural Child Care Pilot Project (1991-92), was quoted in the project's recently released report.

The project's objective was to identify practical child care arrangements for Alberta's farm families. In particular, the focus was on farm families where both parents worked on the farm. Funding was provided—in April 1991—through the Agricultural Initiatives Program and became part of the Alberta Plan for Action for Women. The Alberta Women's Institute acted as the lead organization for the project.

Eight different types of child care arrangement were represented in the 19 projects. A total of 63 families and 149 children from across the province were involved. The projects included: child

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

First Rural Crime Watch Week February 1-7 1
Rural child care project releases report 1
Farmers take up the glove 2
Pesticide course safety value plus. 3
Farmer investment tax credit changes 3
Come to the agriculture fair 3
Date already set for '94 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference 4
Briefs 5
Coming agricultural events notice 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

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care sharing between two or three families with parents taking turns caring for all the children; central and limited registries of care givers; irregular and emergency drop-off with one care giver; sharing a care giver; and, special arrangements in isolated areas.

Participants themselves evaluated the projects. A care giver registry was one of the most effective projects. The report notes: "There seemed to be several reasons why it functioned so well. The organizers kept up an extensive list of three sections (personal, general, students) and they formed a support group that met on a regular basis".

The project committee also made nine recommendations in their report. Among them was a child care tax credit for farm families (and all stay-at-home parents). A tax credit was also suggested by the Federated Women's Institute of Canada says Holly Hallett, current president of the Alberta Women's Institute (AWI). "A tax credit is seen as best all around for all areas of the province," she says.

Other recommendations included offering incentives to Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to make rural child care a priority and education through Alberta Agriculture promoting child care as necessary, possible and affordable.

Hallett notes the pilot project was also positive in the way it brought together members of farm womens' organizations. The six-member project committee was chaired by AWI member Noreen Olson of Carstairs. The secretary-treasurer Win Waters of Innisfail and Shirley Reinhardt of Rockyford also represented the AWI. Other committee members were: Shelley Bradshaw of Innisfail, Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture; Margaret Jones of High Prairie, Women of Unifarm; and, Bev Fausak of Evansburg, the Alberta Farm Women's Network.

The farm womens' organizations plan to continue their work on rural child care notes Hallett. For more information, contact the Alberta Women's Institutes, 6604-82 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 0E7.

Contact: *Holly Hallett*
337-2349

CELEBRATING
ALBERTA'S
FAMILIES

"Families Make a World of Difference"
FAMILY DAY
February 15
1993

Farmers take up the glove

More and more Alberta farmers are putting on protective gloves when they work with pesticides says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"We've come a long way since 1984 when we were recommending some kind of protective glove that wasn't cloth or leather," says Bertha Eggertson provincial clothing and textiles specialist. "With more research about absorption rates and decontamination, we now recommend unlined nitrile gloves as the best protection. As well, chemical companies are also providing gloves with their product."

Back in 1984 few, if any, of the province's farmers wore nitrile gloves she adds. In a 1991 survey, 26 per cent said they did.

"Many more farmers wore nitrile gloves after they took the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program. We surveyed the first people who took the course in 1992 and 76 per cent said they used these gloves."

Wearing gloves is one of the most important and basic items of protective clothing. "The hands account for the greatest percentage of pesticide exposure, so protecting your hands is critical, and how you protect them is even more crucial," she says.

Unlined nitrile gloves are recommended as the best protection. "They're not expensive—about $4 per pair and are reusable up to a point. They are also a good investment in your health," she says.

Protective gloves should be worn when opening and mixing concentrated pesticides. As well, they should be worn when adjusting spraying equipment and during application, if the farmer is directly exposed to spray. For added safety, form a cuff on the glove and wear it under the coverall sleeve. This prevents spills and splashes from running down arms. It's also recommended that whoever handles the pesticide clothing before it's washed wear unlined nitrile gloves.

While nitrile gloves are readily available, so are a number of other types. Eggertson encourages checking the material gloves are made from before buying them. "If the supplier can't tell you what the glove is made from, insist on checking it out with the manufacturer," she adds.

Cloth and leather gloves must never be used. They absorb chemicals and then are a continuous source of contamination. Latex rubber, natural rubber, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gloves should also be avoided.

"The yellow PVC glove is popular for general farm work, but it's a bad choice when handling pesticides because of the lining, and because the PVC is often irregular and has pin holes," notes Eggertson. The general rule is to avoid using lined gloves because they're hard to clean.

Surgical gloves aren't recommended either. "They do have limited use for fine adjustments on a sprayer, but they aren't suitable for general use," she adds.

Gloves also need to be properly cared for. They should be washed before they are taken off, then washed inside and out. Check for holes by filling the gloves with water. Replace immediately if they crack, rip, discolor or have pin holes.

For more information on gloves and other protective clothing, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office. District offices have a variety of informational material and also offer Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program courses.

Contact: *Bertha Eggertson*
427-2412

Pesticide course safety value plus

While it's not compulsory, some students of the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program are finding it so valuable they feel it should be.

"One of this year's students commented that all farmers who use pesticides should be required to take the course to provide a safer food supply and help preserve the environment," says Keith Price of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry branch.

About 1,000 people took the training in 1992 he notes. A follow-up survey showed participants experienced fewer symptoms of pesticide poisoning, wore more protective clothing and also used better laundering methods for washing pesticide contaminated clothing.

In the training, students learn how pesticides may enter their body, how to recognize poisoning symptoms, what protective clothing to wear and how to care for it.

While many farmers have a general awareness of the hazards of pesticides, many lack the specific details of what gear to select and when it's essential to wear it says Price. "Often it's a case of what not to do," he adds.

Wearing leather gloves, shoes or belts, or a fabric hat are particularly bad because the pesticide is absorbed and can't be removed. Then the farmer is exposed to pesticides long after finishing with spraying because his clothing has been contaminated.

The course also covers how to interpret pesticide labels, selecting the most appropriate pesticide, environmental protection, integrated pest management, laws, equipment operation including sprayer calibration and other practical information.

"Graduates of this program also qualify to use Tordon 22, a popular but potentially tricky herbicide to use," says Price. Tordon 22 use is restricted to qualified applicators he adds.

Pesticide training courses are scheduled for most Alberta communities. For more information, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office, or telephone Olds College at 556-8355.

The program takes approximately 12 hours of study, usually spread over a two day course. The $40 cost is tax deductible.

Contact: Keith Price
427-5330

Farmer investment tax credit changes

When it comes time to trade-in farm equipment, farmers should be aware of a proposed change in the federal temporary Small Business Investment Tax Credit (ITC) says an Alberta Agriculture tax management specialist.

"This investment tax credit allows a farmer to receive a ten per cent tax credit based on the cost of new farm equipment," says Douglas Duff, of the farm business management branch in Olds. The amendment changes how an ITC is calculated when a trade-in is involved in a qualified equipment purchase. "The amendment's purpose is to assure the trade-in's value isn't higher than fair market value," says Duff. He uses an example to explain.

"If you were to purchase a new tractor with a retail cost of $100,000, but the final price was $80,000 in cash with no trade, the ITC would be calculated on the cash price. That works out to be 10 per cent of $80,000, or $8,000," he says.

"If a trade-in was part of the purchase and it had a fair market value of $20,000, then the cash difference is $60,000," he adds. The tax credit is calculated by adding the fair market value and the cash price. In this example, $80,000. "So, in the case of these examples, the tax credit is the same for a cash and trade-in purchase," notes Duff.

"The difference between the current rules and the proposed amendment is this. Is the value of the trade-in worth $40,000 on the retail cost of the new tractor, or $20,000 on the cost of a $80,000 cash purchase," he says. "With the proposed changes, the trade-in value is $20,000, not the $40,000."

Duff says the federal government, through the proposed Income Tax Act amendment, is trying to equalize a cash purchase versus a trade-in transaction. "They want to eliminate the unfair advantage of a taxpayer who traded in an asset compared to someone who paid cash."

The federal "Interpretation bulletin IT-93" on this subject says: "The cost of property that is acquired for consideration other than money is determined with reference to the fair market value of the consideration given in exchange".

For more information on this change in the federal tax law contact Duff, or Merle Good at the farm business management branch in Olds. Duff can be reached at 556-4274, and Good at 556-4247.

Contact: Doug Duff Merle Good
556-4273 556-4247

Come to the agriculture fair

Unlike an old children's song, the third annual Agricultural Ambassador School Fair won't have birds, bees and elephants, but it will have a variety of sights and sounds from the agricultural world.

The fair got its start in Medicine Hat and is returning on February 26 to the Cypress Centre on the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Grounds.

"Each year the fair has expanded," says Betty Gabert, co-ordinator of Alberta Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program. "There have been more entries and more people coming to the fair."

This year organizers are hoping to attract more Medicine Hat and area schools. They've invited schools and classes to come for half or full day tours. As well, a local radio station is offering a school-based prize. CHAT Radio will provide a "new country

Cont'd on page 4

dance" for the participating school that wins a draw. The draw is open to all entries at the fair as well as students, teachers and parents who attend the fair.

The fair itself has three main features says Gabert. Award winning student displays from across Alberta can be viewed. The projects encompass all grade levels and range through language arts to science.

A number of performances are also scheduled. "Students will get into some hands-on activities. As well, a stock dog will herd ducks and sheep will be sheared," says Gabert.

The agriculture industry will also be at the fair. Educational activity displays with applied science, food safety, environmental issues and agricultural careers will be featured.

"Representatives from the Camrose community will be visiting the fair to look for ideas for their own Ag Ambassador Fair," says Gabert. "Camrose plans hosting the Alberta fair in 1994."

Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

Date already set for '94 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference

This year's Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners conference attracted its largest attendance ever and the dates have already been set for the 1994 conference.

"We had 370 participants, our best attendance in the conference's history," says Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch. The 1994 conference has already been scheduled for January 15 and 16, 1994 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

"We feel the conference was not only a success in attendance terms, but because participants themselves said they thought it was outstanding," he adds.

"This was the best conference ever because of an excellent mix of speakers who had technical material and a down home practical approach," says Barb Grimshaw of the Alberta Quarter Horse Breeders Group and a longtime conference participant.

Even the speakers were impressed with how the conference was run and the mix of topics. "We could never get this quality of program put together in New Jersey," says Karyn Malinowski, a featured speaker from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

"We believe the conference continues to grow because all 15 speakers on the program have an excellent message and the ability to communicate it. This has helped make the Horse Owners and Breeders Conference one of the foremost conferences for horse enthusiasts in North America," says Burwash.

The conference program usually features 15 internationally recognized speakers. These experts discuss a variety of topics of interest to horse owners and breeders including reproduction, athletic performance, economics and promotion. The conference offers sessions in specific streams for Thoroughbred, Arabian and Quarter Horse owners and breeders, as well as an all-breeds program.

"This year's program had many highlights," notes Burwash. "For example, Jim Reno, known as America's greatest equine sculptor, who took measurements of super horses such as Secretariat, said all the exceptional horses had great long sloping shoulders."

Les Timmons, a trainer from Lacombe, emphasized that all good horses have a desire to please, and great horses also have the desire to excel. Advice for people in the horse business came from Nancy Cahill of Madisonville, Texas. She says to survive facilities must be practical and within your business means, or you'll go broke. Some of the latest in reproductive technology was shared by Gregg Adams of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon. He told breeders ultrasonography has allowed veterinarians to reduce the incidence of twins by eliminating one of the twins prior to day 25 without interrupting pregnancy.

"These types of information are typical of the broad range the conference has offered over the last 16 years," says Burwash.

For more information, contact Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650, or Bob Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906.

Contact:	*Les Burwash* *297-6650*	*Bob Coleman* *427-8906*

Agri-News briefs

Airseeding featured at North Country Leaders in conservation seeding seminar

This year's North Country Leaders in Conservation Seeding seminars will include airseeder clinics as part of the two day seminars. The seminars are March 1 and 2 in Peace River at the Travellers Inn, and March 3 and 4 in Grande Prairie at the Saskatoon Lake Hall. The first day will be devoted to soil conservation and the second to the airseeder clinic. Among the soil conservation topics are climate and moisture; conservation tillage economics in the Peace region; the Agriculture in the Classroom program; the Conservation 2000 program; the Rycroft plots; trends from the zero and minimum till research done in the Peace between 1987 and 1992; and, a producer panel with four producers at different stages of change to conservation tillage. The airseeder clinic will be run by Lawrence Papworth, a project engineer with the Alberta Farm Machinery Reserach Centre; Murray Green, an Alberta Agriculture farm machinery specialist; and, Garry Coy, Alberta Agriculture regional soil specialist in the Peace. They will cover airseeders and machinery systems, planter management, airseeder set-up and operation, and trouble shooting. The seminars run from 8:30 to 2:30 each day. For more information on the Peace River seminar call Lynn Bannerman at 322-3831, or Brent Sears at 674-6205. In the Grande Prairie area, call Darryl Switzer at 532-9722, or Paul LaFlamme at 538-5265. Information on the seminars is also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices in the Peace region.

Western Barley Growers 16th annual convention Feb. 10-11

The Western Barley Growers Association will hold its 16th annual convention and trade fair in Red Deer February 10 through 12. Among the convention topics are marketing, malt barley and facing regulatory challenge. For more information, contact Kathy Cooper in Calgary at 291-3630, or FAX 291-9841.

42nd annual Alberta Poultry Industry conference

Alberta's poultry industry will hold its 42nd annual conference March 1 through 3 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. Related associations will hold their meetings, plus there will be general interest sessions. The Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association will meet on March 1. March 2 will include annual meetings of the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board, the Alberta Egg Marketing Board and the Alberta Hatching Egg Board. The Alberta Chicken Producers has an information session on March 3. General sessions include a salmonella control program update, an egg quality and Leghorn mortality survey, a survey of hatching egg losses in south central Alberta and a panel discussion on management of the modern meat chicken. Banquet guest speaker on March 2 is Judy Schultz, **Edmonton Journal** food writer, who will discuss trends in Canadian food consumption. Winners of a provincial egg competition will be announced on March 2. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's pork and poultry branch in Edmonton at 427-5320, or 427-5090.

International ag fair award for Calgary

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's agriculture program was a recent winner of an international award. The Stampede tied for first place with the Los Angeles County Fair for first place in "best overall program for agricultural exhibitors". The category was for fairs with over one million patrons. The award was presented by the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions during its annual convention. Steve Edwards, Calgary Exhibition and Stampede general manager, accepted the award on behalf of the board's staff and volunteers. The purpose of the competition is to improve agricultural educational program at fairs, to help fairs determine ways they might be of service to their exhibitors and the fair-going public, and to provide recognition of outstanding fairs. For more information, contact Joan McEvoy in Calgary at 261-0162, or toll-free at 1-800-661-1260.

Agriculture, nutrition and food sciences among new environmentally focused degrees at University of Alberta

The University of Alberta recently approved six new environmentally focused degree programs in the faculty of agriculture and forestry/home economics. The BSc degrees are agricultural/food business management, forestry, agriculture, human ecology, environmental and conservation sciences, and nutrition and food science. The programs will start with the September 1993 term. The BSc in environmental and conservation sciences is a completely new degree program, while the other degree programs have been revamped to meet the faculty's environmental, business and student-based curriculum requirements. Particular attention was paid to making course work relevant to future economic, industrial, environmental and social challenges. The new BSc in human ecology and the BSc in nutrition and food sciences reflect the April 2, 1993 merger of the home economics faculty with the agriculture and forestry faculty. Three years of research and consultation with industry, students, faculty and other universities went into the changes. Design, implementation and staffing the new programs haven't required additional funding. For more information, contact Ed Tyrchniewicz, agriculture and forestry dean at 492-4931, or Betty Crown, home economics dean at 492-3883.

Lethbridge Ag-Expo March 3-6

The Lethbridge Exhibition Association will hold its annual Ag-Expo March 3 through 6 at the Lethbridge Exhibition grounds. For more information, contact Twyla Gurr in Lethbridge at 328-4491.

Processed foods and the consumer course

The how and why of the grocery shelf will be explained at a University of Alberta extension course during March. "Processed foods and the consumer" will run Tuesday evenings from March 2 through 30. Billed as a technology awareness course, it will go from raw materials through the food processing operation. The course will also examine food groups and specific issues related to fruits and vegetables, cereals, fats and oils, dairy products, meat and fish, and beverages. As well, it will cover processed foods in the home—freezing, drying and canning—and institutional food preparation. Registration is required and enrolment is limited. For more information, call 492-3029.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **March, April, May or later in 1993**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by* February 18, 1993 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

*("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.
The next list will be **March 1, 1993**)*

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

February 8, 1993

Public lands stewardship will be shared

Two ministers will share responsibility for managing and administering Alberta's public lands.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Environmental Protection Minister Brian Evans made the announcement of their dual responsibility in late January. Both stated their support for the principles of integrated resource planning and management for all public lands and emphasized their commitment to work together to ensure the lands are managed for the benefit of all Albertans.

Alberta Environmental Protection will retain control over land ownership and will administer planning, allocation and sales. Alberta Agriculture will assume day-to-day management responsibility for public lands allocated to agricultural use.

"I believe our shared stewardship of this resource allows us to actively respond to public concerns about conservation and the wise use of our environment for the future," says Evans. "The first word and the last word regarding land use will rest with my department. There are no plans to privatize public lands."

"Our management includes such activities as development of range management plans and determination of stocking rates, based on a multiple use philosophy," says Isley. "I believe this decision reinforces agriculture's long-standing position as the primary surface use on these dispositions."

Agricultural dispositions include public lands used for annual grazing and hay permits, long-term grazing and farm development leases, as well as grazing reserves. Just under seven million acres, or approximately six per cent of the province's total public land base, are in some form of agricultural disposition. In many cases, these lands have been used by agriculture for more than 70 years.

Alberta Agriculture places a high priority on all conservation-related activities. This focus is reflected in the department's recent commitment to a new five-year, $44 million Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA). This agreement funds a broad range of resource management initiatives. The department also supports such conservation programs as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and Alberta's Landowner Habitat Program.

Public lands under agricultural dispositions will continue to be managed with a multiple-use philosophy, and the shared-responsibility decision ensure agricultural clients have a one-window approach when dealing with the department responsible for supporting agricultural activities.

A team of senior staff from both departments will work co-operatively to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities between the two departments.

Contact: *C.D. Radke, Agriculture*
427-2145
Mel Miller, Agriculture
427-5359
Peter Melnychuk, Environment
427-6252
Murray Turnbull, Environment
427-3498

FEB 1993

This Week

Public lands stewardship will be shared 1
Alberta disappointed with U.S. challenge in hog countervail case 2
Lamb's up cycle short term 2
Watch pea seed market this spring. 2
How to feed cattle through cold weather 3
UGG reinforces Ag in the Classroom program 3
Getting down to business—at home 4
Soil and crop update highlights multidiscipline approach 4
Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Alberta disappointed with U.S. challenge in hog countervail case

A decision by the United States trade representative to challenge a free trade agreement decision on the U.S. countervail of Canadian hogs exports is regrettable say Alberta's ministers responsible for agriculture and international trade negotiations.

A late January decision challenges a recent Free Trade Agreement binational panel decision on the export of live hogs from Canada to the U.S.

"We feel that this action is not warranted, and the decision cutting the countervailing rate on Canada's hog exports should be implemented without further delay," says Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley. "The refunds due to Alberta's hog exporters, which could total $2 million, have been held up too long already."

The free trade agreement between Canada and the U.S. gives both countries the option of appealing a binational panel decision through "extraordinary" circumstances. The decision by the U.S. to request an "extraordinary challenge committee" to review the panel decision is consistent with its rights in the trade agreement.

"In our view, the panel decision is a fair one that does not fall into the extraordinary category. The same thing happened in 1991, when the U.S. challenged a panel ruling overturning the countervail on our pork exports, and we believe the extraordinary challenge will again be unsuccessful," adds Isley.

Peter Elzinga, deputy premier and federal and intergovernmental affairs minister, says he believes the U.S. decision may have been made because of time limitations. "The U.S. says it wants to keep its options open to allow the new administration to make a final decision. We hope that they will reconsider, withdraw the complaint, and implement the panel ruling," says Elzinga.

Elzinga emphasized the Alberta government will continue to work closely with the industry and federal government in support of Canada's efforts to have the panel ruling calling for the duties to be refunded put into effect as quickly as possible.

The extraordinary challenge committee includes three federal and superior court judges from both countries. It must be set by today (February 8). It will have 30 days to overturn, remand or affirm the panel's decision.

The federal government and the Canadian Pork Council will spearhead Canada's defense of the panel's decision.

Contact: Bill Gadja, FIGA 422-1510

Bard Haddrell, Agriculture 427-2127

Lamb's up cycle short term

While Alberta lamb producers may feel buoyed by the current upturn in their market, the cycle won't last forever says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It's especially important that producers who plan to expand their flock because of the current market understand this cycle probably will last only one or two years," says Jo Anne Sandhu.

The cycle, says Sandhu, depends on an expected drop in the U.S. sheep and lamb inventory. If those inventories decline by more than three per cent, market conditions could speed up she says. Slaughter lamb and wholesale lamb carcass prices would increase on tightening supplies. In response, some producers would bid more aggressively for feeder lambs and replacement stock. Some ewe lambs wouldn't go to slaughter, but be kept in flocks or sold as breeding stock.

"This would further tighten slaughter supplies and give another push to prices," she notes. "This sequence would repeat until the number of slaughter lambs offered to the market overtakes demand. Then prices would fall. I estimate that will take about two years, depending on how quickly producers respond to price signals."

That's a warning for producers she says. "Prices are on the rise now, but there's no guarantee that they will continue to improve beyond this year and maybe next year. But breeding stock invested in today should continue to yield net profits, even when the markets enter their downside."

Sandhu forecasts Alberta lamb prices at a $81 to $85/cwt. range through February and for prices to steadily increase to a $86 to $90 range in May. Prices will begin dropping slightly in June, down to a $81 to $85 range again in July she predicts.

Contact: Jo Anne Sandhu
427-5387

Watch pea seed market this spring

The pea seed market may be one to watch this spring says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Many analysts and others feel the pea acreage in Western Canada will increase by 15 or more per cent this year," says Al Dooley. "Interest in good quality peas for seed could be very active," he adds.

While not all major companies have announced their pea contracts, Dooley says he expects prices to be about $4 per bushel for feed peas and $4.50 per bushel for No.2 or better food-types.

"If pea acreage doesn't increase by more than 15 per cent, then 1993-94 prices may average about $3.90 to $4.40 for feed peas, and perhaps 50 cents per bushel higher for food quality peas," he notes.

Cont'd on page 3

Pea prices have been steady to higher lately he adds. "Green pea prices increased through mid-January to near the $6 per bushel level. However, for many food markets, further price increases may hurt sales."

Dooley also notes production contracts are now available for 1993 special crops. Contract prices are near 11 cents per pound for yellow mustard and about 10 cents per pound for brown and oriental mustard. Production contracts for canaryseed have also been pegged around the 10 cent per pound level. Lentil contract prices are expected to be around 14 cents per pound for 1993.

"Prices and terms vary, so farmers should look around at what contracts are available for special crops. These remain one of the few ways to manage market risk for these crops," he says.

Contact: Al Dooley
427-5387

How to feed cattle through cold weather

When temperatures fall below -20°C, average beef cows will need to consume more feed to meet their energy requirements says an Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist.

"Cattle are exposed to two types of cold stress during the winter," says Barry Yaremcio.

Long term, or chronic exposure, to cold occurs as winter approaches and cattle adapt to the colder weather. Their feed intake, rate of feed passage and the metabolic rate all increase. Feed requirements go up by 10 to 15 per cent.

"These changes contribute to an increased heat production in the animal that allows it to withstand normal winter temperatures without suffering cold stress," he says.

A beef cow in good body condition already adapted to cold weather will be comfortable until still air temperatures fall below about -20°C. This is called the lower critical temperature (LCT) of an animal.

However, acute cold stress occurs when temperatures drop below an animal's LCT. When temperatures fall below -20°C, average beef cows will need to consume more feed to meet their energy requirements. For every 10°C colder than -20°C (still air at noon), a 1,200 to 1,300 lb. cow needs an additional two to three pounds of grain, or three to four pounds of hay.

Cows in good body condition can meet energy needs with additional high quality hay. Thin cows don't have much fat cover for insulation against the cold and should be provided with additional grain rather than hay.

As well, animals exposed to wind aren't able to withstand the cold as well as those in sheltered areas. A 25 km/h wind changes the lower critical temperature that the cow can withstand by 11°C. "So, additional feed should be provided to mature cows when it is -9°C and they are exposed to a 25 km/h wind," recommends Yaremcio.

Bedding provides cows with insulation and reduces energy requirements. Without bedding, energy requirements increase by 12 to 15 per cent to offset the heat given off when cattle lie on cold ground. To make up for this energy loss from the animal, an additional 1.5 to two pounds of grain, or two to 2.5 pounds of good quality hay should be fed per cow per day.

"New born calves are at a greater risk to acute cold stress than their mothers," he adds. Calves don't have a functional rumen, so don't produce as much heat as older animals. Nor do they have much fat, or a thick hair coat for insulation. "Young new born calves can be cold stressed in 2°C weather," he says.

Underfeeding cows during cold periods can reduce body condition he warns. "Pregnant cows that lose excessive amounts of body condition prior to calving can take longer to return to estrus and have lower conception rates. The quantity and quality of colostrum and milk production may also be effected," he says. "And, the long term effects may not be seen until the calves are weighed and cows pregnancy checked next fall.

"We also don't recommended feeding cows free choice, poor quality roughage to meet their extra energy requirements," says Yaremcio. Straw and other poor quality feeds contain higher amounts of fibre and take more time to digest than good quality hay or grain. The longer it takes feed to pass through the digestive system, the less the animal is able to eat on a daily basis. Consuming less feed during cold periods results in lower total energy being consumed by the animal.

"Relying on the cow to eat additional straw or low quality forage in this situation doesn't improve the final energy balance especially since the rumen may already be filled to near capacity," he notes.

Low quality forages are usually low in protein Yaremcio adds. To maintain microbial function, a minimum of 7.5 per cent dietary protein level (on a dry basis) is required. If protein levels are not above this minimum, impaction problems can occur.

Contact: Barry Yaremcio
427-8906

UGG reinforces Ag in the Classroom program

The United Grain Growers (UGG) has made a major contribution to supplying materials for the Ag in the Classroom program.

"UGG has very generously donated $15,000 each year for the next three years towards printing Ag in the Classroom materials for Alberta schools," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture's agricultural awareness co-ordinator.

"This contribution will enable us to supply more books to more schools," she adds.

UGG will also promote the Ag in Classroom program through its membership. "A package of information on the program will be distributed to members and they will be encouraged to share this in their communities," Gabert says.

Cont'd on page 4

The same commitment has been offered to Saskatchewan and Manitoba. "Because UGG is Prairie-wide, we hope to unite agricultural awareness efforts from the base Alberta has built," says Bernie Mackay, an Alberta director on the UGG board. "We feel the education message can be spread co-operatively for greater public awareness of a very important industry in all three provinces."

"We're releasing the copyright on our materials so Saskatchewan and Manitoba can revise these handbooks for their provincial education curriculum," adds Gabert.

Alberta Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program started in 1984. It has been endorsed by Alberta Education. The program includes awareness materials, a newsletter, ag ambassadors in Alberta schools, a Summer Agricultural Institute program for teachers and a solid working relationship with the agriculture industry.

Contact: Betty Gabert 427-2403 Bernie Mackay 896-2249

Getting down to business—at home

When Joan Baumle came across an article about growing dried flowers and grasses for the retail florist trade, she told her husband, "This is for me".

"A small business had been on my mind for years," says the Kelsey area farm woman. "I wanted something I could do at home. I like being at home and wanted to be there for my kids."

She enlisted two partners—her sister who had greenhouse experience and a friend. They researched their prospective business from checking out local flower shops, to getting advice on setting up a small business. Soon after, their Pretty Petals business was set-up.

Farm families like the Baumles who are currently turning their special interest or hobby into a small business, farm diversification or a home-based business, may profit from an Alberta Agriculture workshop on home-based businesses.

The "Getting down to business" workshop focuses on marketing and financial plans for home-based businesses says Maxine Anderson, district home economist in Wetaskiwin.

The workshop, which runs March 1, 3 and 17 in Wetaskiwin, is presented through funding from the Canada-Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative.

"The workshop's goal is to have participants develop a business plan," says Anderson. "In the process, they prepare a marketing plan and learn sound business management skills—skills that can also be applied to their farming operation."

As well, a pre-workshop visit by the local district home economist is a key part of the workshop. "We'll discuss and target an individual's business needs," she notes. Four districts are involved in the workshop—Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Rimbey and Ponoka.

The registration deadline for the workshop is February 12. The registration form and fee can be submitted to any of the four district offices involved in the course. The registration fee is $42.80 (includes GST).

Each day of the workshop will look at a different aspect of a home-based business. Day one will focus on marketing the business including a business plan and marketing strategies. Day two shifts to financial considerations including record keeping and the business structure.

"The final day puts the previous topics together and gives the participants a chance to make their own business plan," says Anderson. As well, a panel of successful home-based entrepreneurs from central Alberta will share their experiences.

For more information call Anderson in Wetaskiwin at 361-1240, Vivian Nowosad in Rimbey at 843-2201, Holly Pidzarko in Ponoka at 783-7072, or Marian Williams in Camrose at 679-1210.

Contact: Maxine Anderson 361-1240

CELEBRATING '93 ALBERTA'S FAMILIES

"Families Make a World of Difference" FAMILY DAY February 15 1993

Soil and crop update highlights multidiscipline approach

The what and why of the new amalgamated Alberta Agriculture soil and crop management branch also extends to the topics of a soil and crop management update February 16 through 18 in Edmonton.

This year's update follows a successful update seminar in 1992 says Denise Maurice, acting weed section head of the soil and crop management branch. The course is designed to update agricultural extension personnel, technicians, teachers, students, farmers and other interested people on the latest in pesticide, soil conservation and fertility research and technology. This year fertilizer and chemical dealers have also been invited to attend the course.

"The why of our new branch—which was a crop protection branch and a soils branch—will be explained off the top of the course. The new branch will put additional emphasis on using more than a single speciality in successful crop production. That description leads into two of the afternoon's featured speakers," says Maurice.

Guy Lafond and Doug Derksen are both Agriculture Canada researchers at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. They will speak

Cont'd on page 5

about zero tillage direct seeding systems. "Both are leading researchers using a multidisciplinary approach to their work," she notes.

Also on the first day's agenda are the latest research results in fertility under direct seeding and the results of the Alberta canola and barley surveys.

Day two's topics are mainly focused on weed control. That includes hands-on weed identification, toadflax control, one of the first field applications of biotechnology, herbicide resistance, and the latest in weed research on spreading dogbane, smartweed, ox-eye daisy and field peas.

Speakers will also discuss root penetration affected by seed age and development, if the weed seed bank changes in zero tillage systems, moisture and fertility's relationship, and the economic threshold of technology transfer from research to extension.

The final day looks at two recent pests of major concern—purple loosestrife and blackleg of canola. Participants will be updated on Alberta Agriculture's "Bluebook", a guide to pesticide use. They'll also hear about "how you can tell weeds are actively growing and other weed wonders". On the equipment side, is a discussion of the stripper header and its place in Western agriculture.

As well, chemical companies will provide an update on weed controls and trends in fertility.

Participants can register for the full course, or for individual days. The registration deadline is February 10.

For more information, contact Maurice in Edmonton at 427-7098.

Contact: *Denise Maurice*
427-7098

Agri-News briefs

Hog price prospects positive

Recent increases in slaughter cattle prices are positive for slaughter hog prices prospects says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "As higher cattle prices work through the marketing chain to the retail counter, pork will compare favorably," says Ron Gietz. "I believe the large cattle-hog price spread will counteract any negative impacts on the hog market from an increase in hog production." Gietz adds the most likely price scenario in Canadian hog markets is for steady prices in the winter, followed by a typical spring rally. "With the U.S. market apparently locked in a trading range, shifts in the Canada/U.S. dollar exchange rate are the biggest unknown in any price shifts," he says. He forecasts monthly average Alberta Index 100 hog prices at a $1.30/kg (dressed) to $1.35 range between now and April. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Feeder cattle prices follow lead of fed cattle market

Feeder cattle prices have continued to follow the lead of the fed cattle market to higher levels says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Heavy feeder prices have climbed to level that a year ago would have been considered typical calf prices," says Ron Gietz. "Calf prices, in turn, have increased to levels not seen since the fall of 1987." As well, increased demand for feeder cattle has also helped keep the breeding stock market strong. "Feeder cattle prices will respond to a sharp drop in fed cattle prices, but that might not occur before late spring," he notes. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Alberta fed cattle prices set record in January

Alberta fed cattle prices reached a new record high in mid-January. Alberta direct sale steer prices—as tabulated by Canfax—averaged $96.24/cwt. and heifers $94.18/cwt. in the week ending January 22, 1993. Sales were posted above $97 notes Ron Gietz, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Local basis narrowed in mid-January as Alberta packers seemed to be caught up in the excitement of a surging U.S. market," he adds. He forecasts average Alberta slaughter steer prices at $91/cwt. through February, dropping slightly each month later to $90 in March, $89 in April, $87 in May, to a July low of $83/cwt. In the next six months slaughter cow prices are expected to be steadier, at $59/cwt. in February and March, $60 in April, $61 in May, and $60 again in June and July. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Canola planting intentions may bring price slide

Reduced activity by Japan in Canada's canola market may mean a price drop in mid-March when initial planting intentions come out says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Japan has been actively pursuing other sources for their canola requirements says Larry Ruud. "Talk has it that Japan has purchased most of its necessary supplies of Canadian canola out to June. Give their reduced activity in the market, this is likely true. Consequently, the risk of a downturn in prices increases past mid-March when

Cont'd on page 6

initial planting intentions start coming out." Current estimates are that canola acreage will rise significantly in 1993 he adds, from last year's 7.2 million acres to between 8.5 and 9.5 million acres. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Wheat export program lower than last year

Canada's wheat export program is steadily running 10 to 15 per cent below last year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "This isn't a surprise given the smaller crop and poorer quality," says Larry Ruud. Another factor is weather damage to the Australian wheat crop during their harvest. "This will make the world market for feed even more competitive than it is already," he adds. However, the weather damaged Australian crop will help maintain the premium for higher quality milling wheat. "Asking prices out of Vancouver for our high protein wheat are 10 per cent above last year's," he says. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Top 4-H judge visits Denver

Winning the 1992 provincial 4-H livestock judging contest won Aaron Grant a trip to Denver and its Western National Stock Show last month. Grant, 17, of Olds and the Bow-Inn Beef Club watched a collegiate judging competition while in Denver. And while he learned from watching that competition, he also glimpsed a possibility for his own further education. As part of visiting sights and places of interest in Denver, he also journeyed to a nearby college in Sterling, Colorado that he hopes to attend. Grant also took in the Saler show and sale while at the stock show. His family raises that purebred cattle breed. The longtime 4-Her has a history of success in livestock judging competitions including a win last summer at an international junior contest at the Calgary Stampede and a number of 4-H based competitions. Grant can be reached in Olds at 556-2695. For more information on Alberta 4-H judging programs, contact Henry Wiegman at Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

February 15, 1993

Premier and Agriculture Minister announce Century Farm and Ranch Award

One hundred years goes back further than Alberta has been a province, but not farther than the province's farming and ranching legacy.

To recognize not just the early settlers, but the generations that have kept their dream, their land and a vital cornerstone of Alberta's economy alive, Alberta Agriculture has established a Century Farm and Ranch Award program.

Premier Ralph Klein, Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Innisfail MLA Gary Severtson jointly announced the program to recognize Alberta family farms and ranches controlled and operated by the same family for 100 or more years. Eligible farm and ranch families will receive a bronze plaque to commemorate the century milestone. Local MLAs will supply and present the plaques.

"It gives me great pleasure to be part of the announcement of this very special recognition program," says Premier Klein. "Farming and agriculture are a major part of our province's past, and also its future."

"This award celebrates the dreams of Alberta settlers and the work, pride, skills and accomplishments of the generations that have followed," says Isley. "A century in any business is an accomplishment. Given the struggles of farming, the era of the Great Depression and the incredible changes in the world and technology, this award truly honors people of vision, spirit, commitment and determination. We look forward to recognizing the legacy of these Alberta families.

"Because this is a family award, we choose to announce the program in connection with Alberta's Family Day," he adds. Albertans celebrate Family Day today, February 15, the third Monday in February.

Severtson says he's thrilled to have provided the spark for the provincial program from an idea he had to recognize and honor a constituent. "While every farm and ranch family—and family enterprise—that has endured has contributed to agriculture in Alberta, this award identifies those that have made it through a century of change, struggle, hard work and commitment to their land."

"Families Make a World of Difference"
FAMILY DAY
February 15
1993

CELEBRATING
ALBERTA'S
FAMILIES

Brochures outlining the award program will be available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices and all MLA offices. Each brochure includes an application form.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Premier and agriculture minister announce Century Farm and Ranch Award 1

Supplemental Rural Water Development program extended 2

Cold start, warm finish for January 2

Plan farm business succession now. 3

Alberta vegetables heading to Japan again 4

Farming for the Future an exceptional success 4

Insects and your tropical house plants 5

Pre-register now for ram test station 5

Alberta 4-H scholarship applications available 5

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Agriculture
Week'93
March 7-13, 1993
Seeds of Opportunity

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"We're not even hazarding a guess as to how many century farm families there are currently in Alberta. We look forward to finding out and recognizing them," says Isley.

Contact: Gary Severtson, MLA, Innisfail 427-1857
Bard Haddrell, Director Information Services 427-2127
Dwight Dibben Executive assistant to the Minister 427-2137

Supplemental Rural Water Development program extended

The application deadline for the 1991 Supplemental Rural Water Development Program (SRWDP) will be extended to March 31, 1993 for producers in the northeast and northwest drought areas of Alberta.

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley made the program extension announcement last week. Program details and application forms should be available at Alberta Agriculture regional and district offices by February 22, 1993.

Producers who received Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) approval to construct dugouts and water wells between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1992 but, who were unable to meet the March 31, 1992 application deadline for the SRWDP will now be eligible to apply for funding.

"Producers in northeastern and northwestern Alberta continue to face difficulties caused by drought conditions. Therefore, the Government of Alberta is committed to delivering and expanding initiatives that will benefit producers in this region," says Isley. "By extending the application deadline, more producers will be able to take advantage of the benefits provided by the program."

When the water assistance programs were announced in 1992, four municipalities were added to the 1991 designated drought area. However, producers in these municipalities weren't eligible for the 1992 SRWDP because the municipalities were added to the designated drought area after the application deadline of March 31, 1992 had expired.

As a result, an inequity was created between the assistance provided by the 1991 initiatives and those introduced in 1992. In addition, many producers in the 1991 designated area constructed dugouts or wells in 1992 but were unable to apply by March 31, 1992.

The program extension includes producers in the following areas: the counties of Athabasca, Barrhead, Beaver, Lac Ste. Anne, Lamont, Minburn, Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Thorhild, Two Hills and Vermilion River; the municipal districts of Bonnyville, Sturgeon, Wainwright and Westlock; and, improvement districts 15 and 17 East and 18 South.

Because the northern portions of the counties of Strathcona, Flagstaff and Provost have also experienced significant water shortfalls, administrators will consider applications from these areas on a case-by-case basis.

Isley also announced applications from producers in four additional municipalities will be eligible for the program due to drought conditions in those areas. Producers in the counties of Parkland and Leduc, the Municipal District of Brazeau and Improvement District 14 may also apply for funding from the 1992 SRWDP. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Projects undertaken between January 1, 1992 and December 31, 1992 and approved by PFRA that have not received funding from Alberta Agriculture are eligible for the extension.

Contact: Dwight Dibben 427-2137
Ken Moholitny 422-9167

Cold start, warm finish for January

January started off like a deep freeze, but ended with almost spring-like conditions across most of the province says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

A cold spell dominated Alberta during the first half of January, with temperatures 10 to 15 degrees below normal. In a complete turn around, a southwesterly flow of warm air gave Alberta spring-like conditions in the second half of 1993's first month says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

"The average monthly temperature for the province, based on data from 41 weather stations, was 1.2°C warmer than the 1951 to 1980 normal of -15.6°C," says Dzikowski.

The warmest average temperature for the month was -9.8°C recorded at Pincher Creek. "Still, that average was about 0.4 degrees cooler than the January normal of -9.4°C," he adds.

Fort Chipewyan recorded the largest difference in its average January temperature. The monthly average temperature of -19.0°C was 7.0°C above its normal value.

The provincial total monthly precipitation averaged 6.6 mm, only 27 per cent of normal for the period 1951 through 1980. January's monthly precipitation totals varied from no precipitation reported at Vegreville, to 38.7 mm recorded at Slave Lake, 41 per cent above its normal.

"The precipitation totals for January were well below normal throughout the province," Dzikowski adds.

For more information contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski 422-4385

Plan farm business succession now

For success to breed success in a family business, don't procrastinate when it comes to planning who will take over the business.

That message was delivered three-persons-strong at the recent Managing Agriculture Conference (MAC'93) in Red Deer by feature speakers from Parklane Nurseries in Ontario. Parklane is a 35-year old family business currently going through a succession transition.

Casey van Maris, his daughter Anna and Keith Bailey presented the founder, successor and non-family manager points of view in successfully transferring a family business. All three discussed the why, when and how of business succession.

While the founder van Maris allowed that his nursery and tree farm business "is not the same as farming on the Prairies", he says there are enough similarities that he could offer some advice.

Pride in the operation, an opportunity to pass on experience and build on a reputation, and financial security for the founder are among the reasons why founders want to pass on a business says Casey. Other factors are increased economic value in passing along the business, an enhanced work environment, creating a living memorial to the founder and establishing a history for the business and the family.

The when can be simplified to one word—now—he adds. "Start now," he says. "Start as soon as you think it's worth passing on." When you realize the business is worth continuing is just one indicator that it's time to plan succession. His list also includes: when the company gets too big; after your first heart attack; when you're tired and stressed out; and, when you want more leisure time.

One of the biggest obstacles is the founder's belief in their own immortality he says. Two heart attacks, one when he was 39 and another when he was 43, jolted him to his own mortality.

Planning succession means getting your house in order he adds. He suggests starting by "formalizing" the operation, or putting down plans on paper. "Nobody can look inside your head," he says by way of explanation.

Departmentalizing, or breaking the business into different areas can also help. His list of areas includes sales, production, machinery, administration, and new crops or other ventures.

Next is choosing the successor. He advises "use your head, not your heart"; if more than one child is capable, to divide responsibilities; and, then wished his audience luck. Van Maris himself has a family of six.

Once the successor is chosen—train them. "Work with their strengths and work on their weaknesses," he says. "Allow them to make decisions, expose them to all of the company and let them build the management team with you."

Preparing the rest of the family is also important. "Don't let it smoulder and eat at the rest of the family," he says. As with the whole succession process, communication is the biggest and most important tool.

Founders must be willing to step aside, have foresight, train their successor, accept the difficulties and most of all, "don't procrastinate—start now," he concluded.

His final piece of advice for founders was: "Go on an extended holiday, especially during the busy season, and don't leave a phone number."

His daughter Anna pointed out that only 25 per cent of family owned businesses make it through the first transition—the current state of Parklane. "The main reason for this pathetic rate of success is that the founder procrastinates, or doesn't know where to start". The succession process can be further complicated if two or three family members want the business, if none of the family is capable of taking over, and worst of all, if they are capable but not interested in taking over the business.

She says she sees Parklane as both her roots and a living memorial to her parents. Those reasons for taking over the business are emotional, more than logical she adds. But, after working in the business she also began to feel interested in keeping it going.

The when of a successor getting into the business starts "as soon as you feel needed" she adds. From there, the successor should develop a solid grasp of the business, evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses, develop a feeling of control over the company and its direction, understand the responsibility, evaluate commitment to the business and understand their long term role in the business.

The successor also needs to see what they can add to the business as an individual she says. "You don't have to be a clone of your father."

If a non-family member is involved in the business, they can help with the transition says Bailey. Their role can be as a diplomat and catalyst by showing support for the successor, reassuring the founder and communicating both with the staff.

A lack of "perceived heirs" and a need for expertise could bring a non-family member into the business and be part of succession. That non-family member could bring new energy, fresh ideas and investment dollars.

Bailey echoed both the van Maris' by calling procrastination "the cancer of family business".

MAC'93 was the 16th annual managing agriculture conference organized by Alberta Agriculture with support from a number of private and public organizations.

"Families Make a World of Difference"
FAMILY DAY
February 15
1993

CELEBRATING
ALBERTA'S
FAMILIES

Alberta vegetables heading to Japan again

With a successful first sample shipment behind them, some Alberta vegetable growers are preparing to send more of their fresh product to the Japanese market.

"Fresh Alberta vegetables hadn't gone to Japan—or any other Asian country—as far we know before this project," says Jeff Kucharski, trade director for Japan in Alberta Agriculture's marketing services division. He adds the initial interest in Alberta vegetables came from a major Japanese retailer.

Kucharski, along with Paul Ragan, vegetable specialist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, and three southern Alberta growers met with Seiyu, the Japanese company, to discuss the first test shipment last fall.

The 40,000 pound shipment sent in the summer of 1992 included snow peas, broccoli, Japanese squash, Chinese cabbage, carrots and corn. They were sold through the Seiyu stores in Tokyo.

"The result of our discussions was a three-year commitment to see if shipping fresh vegetables was workable," says Kucharski.

While in Japan, Ragan and the Alberta growers toured processing facilities and vegetable markets to study production methods and quality requirements. The company also provided growers with target prices for various vegetables.

Now the Alberta growers and Ragan are looking at how to meet the stringent quality requirements of the Japanese marketplace. An evaluation committee was formed to ensure production and quality concerns were met in time for the 1993 growing season.

"The Japanese want things our growers aren't used to doing," says Ragan. "For example, they want uniform sizing, so all the broccoli in a box should be a nearly identical size and shape. Growers here are used to putting everything together.

"Other differences include appearance and taste," he adds. "Carrots should be a brilliant orange with no green shoulders. The Japanese also want very sweet vegetables. They did like our carrots and the high sugar sweet corn." Another taste adjustment comes with winter squash he notes. "The Japanese want winter squash to be significantly more cured," he notes.

"It all adds up to some management adjustments by our growers to fit into the Japanese marketplace," Ragan says.

That export market could be a place for Alberta growers to grow into says Kucharski. "Our domestic market isn't that big. Alberta has the potential to grow more vegetables, and successfully connecting with the Japanese market could be a real stimulus for the vegetable sector."

This fall carrots, snow peas, broccoli and Japanese squash will again be sent to Seiyu. "Our growers already say they feel they can compete with other suppliers based on the pricing information received from Seiyu," says Kucharski.

As well, more Japanese customers are on the horizon he adds. During a recent incoming mission, another major Japanese retail chain said they were interested in importing Alberta vegetables.

Contact:	*Jeff Kucharski*	*Paul Ragan*
	427-4241	*362-3391*

Farming for the Future an exceptional success

Whether measured by dollars or quality food products, the Farming for the Future program has brought wide-ranging benefits to the agriculture industry and the Alberta economy.

Two recent studies have shown Farming for the Future has been a rewarding investment for Alberta's economy says Ralph Christian, executive director of the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute. The major research and technology transfer program was launched in 1979.

The first of the studies was an evaluation conducted in 1991 by Travis Manning, an agricultural economics professor emeritus at the University of Alberta's department of rural economy. Manning estimated the economic benefits of the Farming for the Future program over a 25-year period at $939 million. He concluded "very few public investments could hope to earn nearly the high rate of return that this program enjoys".

More recently an Edmonton management consultant did an in-depth assessment of 10 research projects and 10 on-farm demonstration projects. "Based on financial analysis of data, file reviews and interviews with researchers, extension personnel, farm co-operators and end-users, the consultants estimated a direct economic return to the provincial economy of $456 million (1992 dollars) over 10 to 15 years from these 20 projects alone," notes Patrick Marce, information officer for Alberta Agriculture's research division. "The consultant, Serecon, also agreed with Dr. Manning's view that his estimate of the benefits was conservative," he adds.

Farming for the Future has funded 1,500 research and demonstration projects at a cost of $63 million since the program started nearly 14 years ago. Farming for the Future projects have ranged from developing new crop varieties to improved livestock productivity.

"Given these studies' findings the program's value has been staggering. For example, $1.1 million in ruminant nutrition research projects were estimated to have a 1992 return of $34 million," says Marce.

Christian also notes the benefits of Farming for the Future extend beyond dollars and cents. "Harder to measure, but equally important, are the benefits of job creation, advancement of agricultural knowledge and training of new scientists," he says. "Consumers also benefit from many of the research projects through higher quality products, improved supplies and lower prices.

"For those reasons, Farming for the Future has been, and will continue to be, an important investment for all Albertans," says Christian.

Cont'd on page 5

For more information on the Farming for the Future program, contact the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute in Edmonton at 427-1956.

Contact: *Dr. Ralph Christian 422-1072* *Patrick Marce 427-1956*

Insects and your tropical house plant

Winter can bring insect problems to tropical house plants says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Lack of humidity and the warm temperatures we keep our homes at both favor population explosions of insects," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Two of the most common insect pests are fungus gnats and red-spotted spider mites she notes.

Fungus gnats are small, grey-black files that often become a nuisance as their population grows. The adults are harmless, but the larva feed on plant roots causing large plants to lose their vigor.

Adults lay their eggs on the soil surface. These eggs hatch into a semi-transparent, dark-headed maggot. Larvae then move down through the soil eating organic matter as they go. This includes roots and root hair.

"Symptoms of fungus gnat feeding include loss of vigor, and yellowing leaves and leaf drop in larger plants. Seedlings can be killed," says Barkley.

Larva can be seen by carefully examining the soil. Treatments include allowing the soil to dry between watering, or an insecticide treatment of the soil. A thin layer of sand or pebbles on the soil surface discourages adults from laying their eggs there.

Red-spotted spider mites, on the other hand, are barely visible to the naked eye. They are less than one millimetre long. Their body color can vary—yellowish or greenish—but, they all have two red spots on their back.

"These mites feed and breed on the underside of leaves," notes Barkley. "Mite infestation symptoms are also easy to spot," she adds. Plant leaves become spotted or speckled as the mites suck sap from plants cells. Leaves turn dull, pale yellow or even bronze as the mite population grows. Eventually, leaves dry up and fall off the plant. Webbing can also be found on the stems and leaf undersides.

Spider mite control begins with careful plant inspection and isolating affected plants she says.

"Increasing the humidity around plants and lowering the air temperature in your home during the winter will also help," she adds.

Chemical miticides are available. "Apply according to the label directions," she stresses. Spraying once a week for six weeks is generally recommended.

"In severe spider mite cases—particularly excessive webbing—it's best to toss the plant out and start again," Barkley says.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley 362-3391*

Pre-register now for ram test station

With limited space for the popular Alberta Ram Test Station, sheep producers are encouraged to register their rams as soon as possible says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"There are three entry dates for the 19th annual ram test program, but we are encouraging producers to pre-register to reserve space for any rams they want to put on test," says Kim Stanford, sheep specialist and the station manager.

"First time and out-of-province participants in particular, should pre-register as soon as possible as a veterinary check of their flock is necessary before their rams can be accepted at the station," she adds. "Health regulations also apply to repeat contributors."

The entry dates are March 3, 17 and 31. The test station is open to ram lambs born in the fall of 1992 or later. The ram lambs must not have been shorn. All rams must have their feet trimmed and be tattooed before entry to the test station. Ewe lambs aren't accepted on test.

As well, there are weight requirements for specific breeds she notes. Suffolk and Hampshire lambs must weight between 50 and 75 lbs. and other breeds between 45 and 70 lbs. when they are delivered to the station site at Olds College.

Rams that complete the test with above average growth rates for their breed and pass a physical inspection are eligible for the test station's sale in the summer. The sale date has been set for July 3 at the Olds Cow Palace.

Test station applications are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, or by calling Stanford at 381-5150 in Lethbridge.

Contact: *Kim Stanford 381-5150*

Alberta 4-H scholarship applications available

Past and present Alberta 4-Hers planning to attend post-secondary institutions this fall can begin applying for 1993 4-H scholarships.

Application forms for the 87 scholarships that will be awarded for the 1993-94 academic year are now available from all rural high schools, all Alberta post-secondary institutions, Alberta Agriculture regional offices, Alberta Agriculture district home

Cont'd on page 6

economists, or by writing: 4-H Scholarships, Room 200, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

The scholarships range in value from $100 to $1,000. In total, $57,000 worth of scholarships will be awarded.

"This scholarship program has provided hundreds of Alberta youths with funds towards higher learning and their careers," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch. "We certainly encourage all 4-Hers to apply."

As well, both 4-H members and non-4-Hers who are taking agriculture, agricultural engineering, home economics or veterinary science are invited to apply for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother scholarships. Three scholarships each worth $1,500 will be awarded in 1993.

Applications for these scholarships are available at all six Alberta Agriculture regional offices as well as the 4-H branch in Edmonton.

The application deadline for most 4-H scholarships is July 15, 1993.

Contact:	*Lori McRae* *422-4444*	*Arron Madson* *422-4444*

Agri-News briefs

Alberta Farm Women's talent bank directory available

The Alberta Farm Women's Network (AFWN) has published a directory of farm women. The directory was launched during the network's recent annual conference with the first copy presented to Shirley McClellan, former associate minister of agriculture and current health minister. The directory lists capable, interested farm women who are willing to sit on boards, committees, councils and commissions. The directory can also be used as a list of resource people available as speakers, for surveys and as media contacts. As well, the directory will help active farm women network with each other. Participation in the project was voluntary. Interested farm women filled out questionnaires. Copies of the directory are available by sending $5 to the AFWN, 9632-83 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 3A3. For more information, call Faye Mayberry at 886-4129.

Saskatoon production workshop March 19-20

The Alberta Fruit Growers Association is holding a saskatoon production workshop and information seminar March 19 and 20 at Edmonton Northlands Agricom. The two-day workshop is geared to people interested in learning more about growing saskatoons. Lloyd Hausher, a specialist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Center in Brooks, will make two presentations during the first day. He'll discuss establishing and managing a saskatoon orchard, as well as saskatoon production information. During the second day he'll give a saskatoon research round-up. Dennis Roll of Airdrie will talk about irrigating a saskatoon orchard. Joe Uhryn, of the Groveberry Patch in Spruce Grove, will provide a grower profile. The day ends with Len Pearson, association president, discussing the association's goals as well as the direction of the saskatoon industry. The final day includes descriptions of saskatoon diseases such as wooly elm aphid and entomosporium. Sandra Backmeye of Hythe will discuss her own Beavertail Berry Farms as well as the Peace River Fruit Growers' Co-operative. The association's annual meeting follows. Pre-registration is $30 for members and five dollars more for non-members. Costs go up by five dollars at the door. Cheques made payable to the AFGA seminar account can be sent to 54053 Range Road 215, Ardrossan, Alberta, T0B 0E0. Information is available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices, or for more information contact Shirley at 998-2782.

Vegetable Growers pass plebiscite

Members of the Alberta Vegetable Grower's Marketing Board have approved a revised plan of the board. Seventy-four producers were eligible to vote in the plebiscite. A total of 53 ballots were returned with a total of 50 voting in favor of the revised plan. The major changes to the plan were in three areas. District committees were eliminated, additional powers have been added to reflect the modernization of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, and the actual practice of the Board and financing of the board is now included in the plan. As well, production and market regulations were updated and a vegetable negotiating agency regulation was implemented. For more information on the plebiscite, contact Diane Aves, manager of corporate affairs for the Alberta Products Marketing Council, at 427-2164.

Nominations now open for Emerald Award

Nominations are now open for Emerald Awards that celebrate environmental excellence in Alberta. The awards recognize Alberta corporations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to preserving, protecting or enhancing our environment. There are nine award categories: environmental products; large business/industry; small business; media; environmental services; individual-volunteer; individual-business; education; and, not-for-profit/community group. Nominations close on March 19. The Emerald Awards will be presented June 7 in Calgary during Environment Week. Nomination forms are available from the Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence at 482-9200, 1-800-567-9200, or by writing #600, 12220 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3L2.

Lacombe cereal and oilseed crops update

March 17 is the date for the Lacombe Cereal and Oilseeds Crops Update. The agenda includes: what's new in varieties and management; herbicide recommendations and weed research; a market outlook; soils and fertilizers; and, soil copper trials in the County of Lacombe. No pre-registration is required and there is no registration fee. For more information, contact the Lacombe Alberta Agriculture district office at 782-3301, or 340-7161.

Chicken producers approve revised marketing board plan

A revised plan for the Alberta Chicken Producers' Marketing Board plan has been approved by a vote of eligible producers. A total of 375 producers were eligible to vote on the plan, and a total 326 ballots were returned in the plebsicite. Yes votes totalled 308. New definitions were added and some definitions were changed in the revised plan. As well, a number of other clarifications to regulations and board administration were made. For more information, contact Diane Aves, manager of corporate affairs for the Alberta Products Marketing Council, at 427-2164.

Barrow carcass competition deadline February 26

Entries for the 1993 Alberta Pork Congress barrow competition close on February 26. The contest challenges pork producers to produce the best barrow carcass in a limited time. Carcasses are judged on their quality as well as the barrow's growth rate. Top carcasses will be auctioned during a banquet at the Pork Congress in June. Competition carcasses will be graded by Agriculture Canada inspectors. Out-of-province entrants are welcome. For more information, contact the congress office in Red Deer at 340-5307.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

February 22, 1993

Lab germination test before you seed

Lab germination tests are an important step before you seed this year's crop says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"In years like we had in 1992 with a lot of weather damage, having a lab do the testing is especially important," says Bill Witbeck, supervisor of seed technology. "Frost damage, moisture content and dormancy can have a major impact on interpreting results, so a trained eye is essential."

Germination tests can ensure you don't have problems with any of the seed you will market or plant he adds. "Don't risk the outcome of this year's production by failing to have a proper germination test done on your samples."

A germination test is the best way to find out if the seed is viable. However, Witbeck says some producers have gotten into the habit of doing their own germination tests. His advice, though, is to have germination tests done by an accredited seed lab.

"You can't afford to gamble on something that will determine your crop this year. Improper evaluation of seedlings could have a devastating affect on your crop," he says. "Professional seed analysts have the expertise to evaluate the condition of seedlings as they grow."

There are five accredited seed laboratories in Alberta that do germination testing. They are: the Alberta Wheat Pool in Camrose and Grande Prairie; Norwest Labs in Edmonton; 20/20 Seed Labs in Nisku; and, United Grain Growers in Edmonton.

Non-accredited labs may do germination tests for common seed. Witbeck also notes only accredited labs can assign a grade to pedigreed crops. "All seed being sold, whether pedigreed or common, must be graded," he adds.

For more information, contact your Alberta Agriculture district office, or Witbeck at the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe at 782-4641.

Contact: *Bill Witbeck*
782-4641

Agriculture Week'93
March 7-13, 1993
Seeds of Opportunity

Pre-calving nutrition affects colostrum quality

With average to below average feed quality in many parts of the province, and tight feed supplies in others, farmers and ranchers should evaluate their pre-calving feeding programs says an Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist.

"Thin cows, or cows that aren't getting properly balanced rations, won't be able to provide adequate quality or quantity colostrum to their newborn calves," says Barry Yaremcio.

Colostrum is essential to newborn calves. It provides calves with passive immunity. Unlike some animals, calves can't obtain immunity from their mother before calving. As well, high quality colostrum contains three times more fat and protein than normal milk, and is a very good energy source for the young calf.

Cows that are underfed before calving and are below a condition score of 2.5 to 3.0, won't be able to produce the colostrum required by the calf he says. "If cows are underfed before calving, they produce 60 per cent less colostrum than a properly-fed cow."

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Lab germination test before you seed 1
Pre-calving nutrition affects colostrum quality 1
Spotlight on womens' nutrition needs 2
A diversified field of dreams 2
Disposable coveralls for extra protection 3
All-in, all-out production focus of regional swine seminars 3
Beat your winter blahs, plan flower beds now 4
Look to future with grains and livestock outlook 4
Briefs 5

Alberta
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Producers should also note young cows, especially first calf heifers, are more susceptible to nutrient deficiencies than mature cows says Yaremcio. "Not only are these young cows developing a calf, but they must also maintain their own growth rates to reach mature body size."

Cows that require help during calving are also more likely to provide inadequate amounts of colostrum for their calves.

"Calves that are pulled, or born to cows in poor condition, will take longer to stand and suckle. This is harmful to calves because they need to consume about one and half to two litres of colostrum in the first six hours of their lives," he says.

After the first 12 hours, the large openings in the intestine close and the large colostrum proteins can't pass into their bloodstream. If the colostrum isn't passed intact, it won't provide immunity.

Another problem associated with stressed calves is more stomach acid than is found in calves from unassisted births. Higher stomach acid levels will denature colostrum, rendering it less effective in providing immunity to the calf.

"Calves that obtain the proper amount and quality of colostrum within the first 12 hours of life will grow faster than those that are colostrum deficient," he notes. "Plus, these calves have a greater resistance to disease."

Yaremcio adds cows that provide higher amounts of colostrum tend to be better milkers.

Contact: *Barry Yaremcio*
427-6361

Spotlight on womens' nutrition needs

Pound for pound women need more nutrients than men, but women often aren't aware of their special needs.

To increase their awareness, the Canadian Dietetic Association has made meeting women's nutritional needs the focus of 1993's national nutrition month. Nutrition Month is every March.

The awareness takes three main themes. First, for women to remember their own nutrition needs while meeting the challenges of their busy lives. Second, to enjoy healthy eating and being physically active. Finally, for women to feel good about themselves as healthy bodies come in all shapes and sizes.

"The national association points out that while women are usually responsible for the meals and health of family members, they are often unaware of, or neglect their own unique nutrition requirements," says Aileen Whitmore Alberta Agriculture provincial foods and nutrition specialist. "As well, women tend to diet more, and might not be getting enough nutrients because they've reduced their calories."

"Iron and calcium are two of the particular needs that women have," she adds. For example, women need extra iron during menstruation, pregnancy and childbirth, and can be at increased risk of developing an iron deficiency. Calcium is another common concern. Adequate calcium and exercise while young, can help prevent osteoporosis in later years. As well, a drop in female hormone production at menopause can make women more prone to some nutrition-related problems.

"Following the recommendations in Canada's Guidelines for Healthy Eating will give you a pattern for your diet," she adds. The guidelines encourage Canadians to enjoy a variety of foods; to emphasize grains, vegetables and fruits; to choose lower fat dairy products, leaner meats and foods prepared with little or no fat; to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight with a combination of regular exercise and healthy eating; and, to limit salt, alcohol and caffeine.

During Nutrition Month women can call a special, free Women's Nutrition Information Line at 1-800-563-4444. The line will operate 24 hours a day between March 1 and 31. A touch-tone telephone is needed and the service is available in both English and French. The line was made possible through the official Nutrition Month sponsors, the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and the Dairy Bureau of Canada.

Information about healthy eating is also available through Alberta Agriculture district home economists.

Contact: *Aileen Whitmore*
427-2412

A diversified field of dreams

When Donna and Alex Hamilton look at their 300 acres of barley, they see their field of dreams.

Instead of the movie's magic baseball diamond, the Olds area farmers see an innovative and nutritional way to market their crop—as Hamilton's Barley Flour.

Barley is Alberta's second largest crop grown on about six million acres. Increasing human consumption of barley is a relatively new idea. Its breakthrough in Alberta came with a Farming for the Future research project when 26 Alberta families tested an assortment of recipes featuring pearl and pot barley, barley flakes and barley flour.

For the Hamilton's, using their barley for flour instead of more traditional uses such as livestock feed or malt, came in 1990 at a meeting of the Western Barley Growers' Association (WBGA). "We were looking at different ways of diversifying our crop," says Alex.

A conference speaker gave them an idea. Rosemary Newman from Montana State University talked about the nutritional aspects of barley—particularly hulless varieties—in human food. (Humans can't digest barley hulls, but hulless varieties provide the whole grain with bran.)

They heard about barley's health benefits including high potassium and vitamin B, low sodium and fat contents. As well, they learned barley has soluble fibre; an even bigger selling point.

Soluble fibre is made up of pectins, gums and beta-glucans. Pectins and gums are found in fruits and certain seeds, while

Cont'd on page 3

beta glucans are found predominately in oats and barley. Research has linked soluble dietary fibre to reducing cholesterol build-up, and indicates it may have an affect in some people.

World-wide research—from the University of Saskatchewan to Australia—confirmed the nutritional benefits. While the human nutritional qualities of barley were attractive, there was an added benefit says Alex. "Processing our primary product removes us from the dilemma of world markets.

"Diversification is a healthy choice," he also says, "and, it keeps us optimistic about farming."

Their diversification started by choosing a suitable hulless barley variety. First, they tried Tupper. It produces a lighter, creamier colored flour, that is more appealing to the retail market. Taste is also an important consumer concern.

"The taste is quite nutty," says Karen Hoover to describe barley flour. Hoover is the district home economist in Olds. "It adds a bit of life to baked products."

Hoover, along with Donna Hamilton, are finding in-store demonstrations a hands-on way to show consumers barley's benefits. "Education is one of the biggest hurdles to overcome," says Donna. "Once consumers see the results they know how to use it. And after we've told them about the benefits, they know why to use it." She adds selling efforts have also been boosted by the recently updated Canada Food Guide recommendation for Canadians to eat more whole grain products.

"The ease and versatility of barley flour is a definite selling feature," she adds. In most recipes, barley flour can be substituted cup for cup in place of other flours. The exception is yeast breads that require some wheat flour to provide the necessary gluten. In yeast breads, barley flour may successfully replace up to one-third of the flour in the recipe.

Hamilton's barley flour is making slow inroads in retail markets. Their Alberta Food Processors Association membership has assisted them in promoting the product. But as Donna warns, "Your marketing efforts really begin when the product hits the shelves."

Hamilton's Barley Flour—in 2.5 kg bags—is available in Calgary and Edmonton Safeway stores, Food City stores, Calgary Co-ops, some IGA stores across the province and a variety of health food stores. Their next project is developing a muffin mix using their barley flour.

The Hamiltons have compiled several recipes for their flour. The recipe booklet is available free of charge by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Hamilton's Barley Flour, R.R. 2, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

A barley cookbook is also available for $6 from the Western Barley Growers Association at 232, 2116-27 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7A6. The office telephone number is 291-3630.

The Hamilton's were recently part of an entrepreneur panel at the Managing Agriculture Conference (MAC'93) in Red Deer. Eight panelists in the "No fear—no risk takers here" session described diversification projects including bed and breakfast, greenhouse, saskatoons, peas and angora goats.

MAC'93 was the 16th annual edition of a popular managing agriculture conference offered by Alberta Agriculture in association with a number of private and public sponsors.

Contact: Donna and Alex Hamilton
556-8493

Disposable coveralls for extra protection

When Alberta farmers were first surveyed in 1984 about the types of clothing they wore while spraying, none were wearing disposable coveralls. That has changed.

"Just over one-third of the people who took the Farmer Pesticide Certification Program training last year now wear disposable coveralls as an extra layer of protective clothing," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist with Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

Multiple layers are the key to the best protection while handling pesticides she adds. "The more layers, the more protection you have."

Basic protective clothing includes a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, unlined nitrile gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide brimmed hard hat. Extra protection are hooded, disposable coveralls and a waterproof apron.

"While disposable coveralls provide extra protection, they do have limited use," stresses Eggertson. "They can be used again as long as they have only had limited chemical exposure and haven't been ripped or developed holes. Nor, should they be laundered."

If those conditions have been met, farmers must also remove the coveralls very carefully so they don't contaminate the inside of the coverall. As well, they should be hung in a well-ventilated areas away from both other clothing and people between wearings.

Eggertson also reminds farmers to use the coverall's hood. "The hood is excellent protection for your head area. This area has a high pesticide absorption rate, so the hood is yet another layer of protection. As well, the coverall fits better when the hood is up."

When a farmer handles concentrated chemicals, an impermeable apron worn over the disposable coveralls is also recommended as the genital area has one of the highest absorption rates on the body. This area's absorption rate is almost 12 times higher than for the forearm.

Disposable coveralls should be replaced immediately if they are heavily splashed, or if rips or holes appear. They should also be replaced when they pill (balls of fibre appear on their surface).

As well, disposables shouldn't be burned. Instead, place in a plastic bag and take to an approved landfill site.

Eggertson also recommends making sure the disposable coverall is recommended for the pesticide type that will be used.

For more information on protection clothing or on the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson, 427-2412

All-in, all-out production focus of regional swine seminars

Changing growing-finishing swine production methods is the focus of a series of regional seminars in mid-March.

"The 'all-in, all-out' production method will be the featured topic," says Art Lange of Alberta Agriculture's pork and poultry section.

This production theory will be discussed by Alan Scheidt of Purdue University in Indiana. "Scheidt has done considerable research in the area of growing and finishing production for better disease control as well as reduced feed costs," says Lange.

The seminars will be held consecutive days starting March 16 in St. Paul, moving to Barrhead, then Red Deer and finally Lethbridge on March 19.

The seminars will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. The locations are: St. Vincent Parish Hall (11 miles north of St. Paul on #881) on March 16; Glenreagh Hall (one mile north and one mile west of Barrhead) on March 17; the Westerner Altaplex in Red Deer on March 18; and, finally at Sven Erickson's Restaurant in Lethbridge on March 19.

Each seminar will start with an introduction by the local Alberta Agriculture regional swine specialist. The specialists are Irene Wenger in Vermilion, Bert Dening in Barrhead, Marvin Salomons in Red Deer and Alan George in Lethbridge. Also on each agenda is Garry Finell, a swine veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture's health management branch. He will show how snout and lung scoring in the Alberta program relates to "all-in, all-out" hog production.

In the afternoon, the regional swine specialist will discuss the cost of production for various management systems. This will be followed by Robert Borg, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineer from Red Deer, speaking on adapting existing facilities to the "all-in, all-out" concept or building new facilities. The day will wrap up with a discussion and question period at 3:30 p.m.

Before March 9, seminar registration is $25 person (including lunch). The cost increases to $30 after that date.

Registration forms are available at all district offices of Alberta Agriculture. "As well, registration forms will be sent out with cheques from the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation during February," notes Lange.

For more information, contact your nearest regional swine specialist, or the pork and poultry section in Edmonton at 427-5319 (toll free via the RITE system).

Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

Look to future with grains and livestock outlook

Alberta producers can pick up market forecasts at a grains and livestock outlook on March 5 at the Nisku Inn.

Sponsored by the Canada Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative, this outlook meeting follows up a similar seminar held last fall in Josephburg says Elmer Bittner, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Leduc.

"This day long seminar promises you the most up-to-date information possible to allow you to 'crystal-ball' your future in the agricultural industry," he adds. The outlook will cover all crop varieties including peas as well as livestock markets in Alberta and around the world.

Among the speakers is Errol Anderson, manager of Palliser Commodities in Calgary. "He'll focus on new crop strategies that will allow you to take advantage of relatively high prices, if you don't get too greedy," says Bittner. "Too greedy," he adds, "could mean not pricing your crop as the price is going up. Come to the meeting and learn the strategies first hand."

Dave McFarland, special crops trader with the Alberta Wheat Pool in Lethbridge, will cover pulse crops with an emphasis on peas. He'll highlight both human consumption and feed markets in reviewing price, demand, best varieties and the future of peas.

On the livestock side, Ann Dunford, will examine the global beef, hog and chicken markets. "Her experience with Canfax gives Anne some valuable insights into livestock market trends," notes Bittner.

Also on the agenda is Dave Nilsson of Modern Livestocck in Clyde. He'll detail the Alberta beef market by looking at the cattle cycle, calf and feeder prices and future trends.

Registration is $15 per person, or $25 per couple (includes lunch). The registration deadline in March 1. To register, or for more information, call the Leduc Alberta Agriculture district office at 986-8985.

Contact: Elmer Bittner
986-8985

CANADA • ALBERTA
FARM BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Agri-news briefs

Breathing easier—human health & intensive livestock seminar

Human health concerns in intensive farm operations are the subject of a one day seminar in Ryley on February 24. Topics for the day are barn air quality, effects of the barn environment on the human respiratory system, the mechanics of grain dust, effects of exposure to grain dust, barn housekeeping to reduce dusts, and dust masks and other safety equipment. Among the speakers are two professors from the University of Alberta's medicine faculty as well as an animal housing specialist. Alberta Agriculture specialists Kris Chawla, a processing engineer; Brian Kennedy, a regional engineer; and, Irene Wenger, northeast regional swine specialist will also provide their expertise. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture district office in Ryley at 663-3555, or Wenger in Vermilion at 853-8128.

Northern Native Agriculture Development conference starts today

A strategic planning forum for native and Metis farmers starts today in Slave Lake. The Northern Native Agriculture Development Conference runs February 22 through 24 at the Sawridge Hotel in Slave Lake. The conference will focus on product development, market development and training. For more information, contact the Northern Native Development Conference at 428-6731 in Edmonton.

Peace Country Classic March 11-13

The largest agricultural show north of Edmonton runs March 11 through 13 at Evergreen Park in Grande Prairie. The 1993 agricultural show will be highlighted by the opening of a brand new facility, the Agricultural Pavilion. The Classic includes cattle show, horse program, the eighth annual seed fair and "Family world", a showcase of domestic, leisure and educational family life in the farm community. For more information, contact John Fraser at 532-3279 in Grande Prairie.

Barley and canola teamed at seminar

Production and marketing of both barley and canola are featured at a seminar March 10 at the Chestermere Sports Complex. The Alberta Barley Commission, the Alberta Canola Commission and Alberta Agriculture are the seminar sponsors. The seminar will feature the findings from the 1992 barley and canola production practices survey. This survey follows one a decade earlier used to write provincial barley and canola production manuals. Pre-registration is $10. Cheques can be made payable to the M.D. of Rocky View. For more information, contact one of the following Alberta Agriculture district offices: Airdrie at 948-8551; High River at 652-8300; or, Strathmore at 934-3355.

March 15 deadline for Dairy Congress Forage Competition entries

March 15 is the deadline for entries in the 1993 Alberta Dairy Congress Forage Competition. The forage competition showcases quality forage produced in Western Canada. There are five competition classes: legume, grass-legume and grass hay; haylage; and, cereal silage. Winning entries are displayed at the congress. The seventh annual Alberta Dairy Congress is June 3 through 5 in Leduc. For more information on the forage competition, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Leduc at 986-8985.

CWB forever in motion

"Forever in motion" is a 24-minute promotional look at the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and its functions. The video looks at a variety of topics including the price discovery system, the role of the Canadian Grain Commission, and the CWB's system of price pooling and delivery quotas. The history of Canadian wheat and its high quality are also part of the video available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. For loan information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Waste hotline introduced

The Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA) has introduced a 1-800 waste hotline. The ESAA is a not-for-profit business association of 200 organizations dedicated to developing a strong environmental services industry to help solve environmental management challenges. The toll-free number is 1-800-661-9278. The hotline provides access to member companies with the abilities to advise and handle a wide range of hazardous or special waste management needs. The hotline can

Cont'd on page 6

also be used to advertise projects for tender. ESAA members provide services in a number of areas including waste disposal, site remediation, laboratory analysis, emergency clean-up, transportation, safety training, equipment and supplies, environmental liability insurance, resource management, and consulting and project management. For more information call the hotline, or in the Edmonton area call 439-6363.

Trenching/excavating seminar coming across province

A trenching/excavating seminar may be coming to a community near you during March and April. The seminars are presented by the Alberta Construction Safety Association, the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association, Alberta Occupational Health and Safety, Alberta 1st Call and the Alberta Agriculture Farm Safety Program. The seminar will cover legislative responsibilities, soil stability, safe work practices, cut back methods, shoring methods and utility locations. The $25 cost includes lunch. The seminars are day-long, and are offered for at least two days in various locations. The seminar dates and locations are as follows: Lethbridge, March 2, 3 and 4; Medicine Hat, March 8 and 9; Calgary, March 11 and 12; Red Deer, March 16 and 17; Edmonton, March 23, 24 and 25; Lloydminster, March 30 and 31; Fort McMurray, April 6 and 7; and, Grande Prairie, April 13 and 14. For more information, or to register call the Alberta Construction Safety Association toll-free at 1-800-661-6090.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 1, 1993

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Check for blackleg before buying or seeding canola

The devastating canola blackleg fungus has found its way to the Peace region of Alberta because infected seed was planted one or more years ago in a field near Falher say Alberta Agriculture specialists.

The fungus disease is seed-borne, but it usually overwinters in infected canola stubble. "One infested field is just the start of the problem," says Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant diseases.

Blackleg has been spreading westward into Alberta from Saskatchewan for the last decade. The first infected field in this province was found near Vermilion in 1983. Last year virulent blackleg of canola was found in 13 of 57 Alberta municipalities. While the disease can cause up to 90 per cent yield losses in heavily infested fields, 50 to 60 per cent losses are common in Saskatchewan. In Alberta overall losses are much less than one per cent of the province's total yield.

"The incidence of the disease and losses in this province have been dramatically reduced by awareness and education efforts," notes Evans. Alberta Agriculture along with municipal fieldmen in particular, the Alberta Environment Centre, the Alberta Canola Commission, and seed and chemical companies have been warning and educating producers about the dangers of blackleg, as well as providing information on preventing and controlling the disease.

"Two of our most important recommendations for canola growers are to purchase and use seed that has been tested for blackleg, and to use treated seed," says Evans. "We strongly encourage anyone purchasing canola seed to request a copy of a final blackleg test. The blackleg test should read 'No virulent blackleg detected in 1,000 seeds tested.'

"Another major recommendation is proper crop rotations, including only growing canola on the same field once every four years," he adds.

Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops with the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe, notes better blackleg tolerant canola varieties will become available in future years.

Canola producers are urged to understand the disease. "They can get a complete description from an Alberta Agriculture factsheet," adds Evans. "Blackleg of Canola" (Agdex 149/632), and other information, is available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Virulent blackleg of canola has been officially recognized as a pest in the provincial Agricultural Pests Act. The legislation requires producers to take measures to prevent blackleg on their land, or to control it if their land is infested. The act also forbids sale, purchase and planting of seed known to be infected with blackleg.

"So, every producer has a legal obligation to control this disease and prevent it from spreading," says Thomas.

Both preliminary tests of uncleaned seed and a final test on every lot of processed seed are recommended. Seed laboratories requires a half pound (250 g) sample for each test. As well, seed labs will use the same method of testing and provide uniform reports of the results.

For more information contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office, Evans in Edmonton at 427-7098, or Thomas or Bill

Cont'd on page 2

Agriculture
Week'93
March 7-13, 1993
Seeds of Opportunity

This Week

Check for blackleg before buying or seeding canola 1
Agriculture comes to West Edmonton Mall 2
Focus group testing to better products 2
750 million gallons flowed in dugout pumping program 2
Outstanding in her field 3
Conference looks at the new pioneering— diversification 3
Risks and benefits of taking over oil and gas wells 4
Briefs 5
Coming agricultural events 7

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Witbeck, seed technology supervisor, at the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe at 782-4641.

Contact: *Dr. Ieuan Evans*
427-7098
Bill Witbeck
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Phil Thomas
782-4641

Agriculture comes to West Edmonton Mall

Agriculture and urban Alberta will meet in phase one of West Edmonton Mall from March 11 through 13.

To help celebrate Agriculture Week in Alberta—March 7 through 13—three municipalities have joined together to bring agriculture to the city. This is the second consecutive year the counties of Lamont, Minburn and Two Hills have brought agriculture visibly into Edmonton. Last year the site was Canada Place.

"We hope that through some fun activities as well as a number of displays to give urban Albertans a better idea about one of the province's leading industries," says David Wong, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Lamont and one of the event organizers.

Some of the fun will come in a celebrity cow milking contest featuring local media personalities. Among the confirmed competitors are Nick Lees of the Edmonton Journal, John Hanlon of CBC Radio, John Berry of CFRN Television, David Berner of CJCA Radio and David Bruns of CFCW Radio.

This contest will officially kick-off the Agriculture Week event. The contest is scheduled for noon on March 11.

As well, there will be a number of demonstrations including cattle dog, sheep shearing and llamas. Upwards of 30 displays will also be present. They represent a wide spectrum of the agriculture and food industry.

Edmonton schools have been invited to visit. Organizers also hope Edmontonians will make a special visit to take in the displays and demonstrations.

Contact: *David Wong*
895-2291

Focus group testing to better products

Alberta Agriculture is offering the province's food processors an opportunity to improve their chance of success.

"In the competitive world of food products, new products and new packages suceed and fail every day," says Andy Drohomirecki of the processing services division. "Through a focus group test you can enhance the chance of success your product, package, concept or advertising will have."

A focus group involves 10 to 12 people. Panel members are either consumers of the product or a similar product. Over a 45 minute period they review the product and give the processor some ideas, and very candid comments about package size, shape, graphics, wording, feel and pricing.

"Although the consumers in a focus group are a small segment of the overall Alberta marketplace, their opinions will give you some idea about whether your product or package development is headed in the right direction," he says.

The processing services division will assist processors by co-ordinating this type of testing. The processor submits the product, or the package, and then can watch and listen to the consumers through a one way mirror.

Food processors can also get a price break. The regular price of each product test is $1,000. However, the cost to an Alberta processor through this program is only $500, plus GST. The balance will be paid by Alberta Agriculture.

"This may be the best $500 you've spent in developing that new package or new product," says Drohomirecki. "Don't delay in signing-up."

For more information, contact Drohomirecki in Edmonton at 427-7325, or FAX 427-3655.

Contact: *Andy Drohomirecki*
427-7325

750 million gallons flowed in dugout pumping program

Widespread water shortages across the province put Alberta Agriculture's dugout pumping program to the test last year.

The program provides emergency assistance to Alberta producers. It's designed to ensure water supplies to producers experiencing drought says Rick Atkins, head of the engineering services branch.

"In 1992 some 750 million gallons of water were pumped into 1,150 dugouts with help from the dugout pumping program," says Atkins. "Just to give you an idea of that volume, 750 million gallons would cover 2,700 acres with one foot of water.

"It was an extremely busy season as three times the normal number of dugouts were pumped," he adds. The majority of producers who used the program were from four of Alberta Agriculture's six defined regions. Those regions were the Peace, northeast, northwest and southern.

Pumps and pipe are supplied to needy farmers and ranchers to move water from a variety of sources into their dugouts. The water can be for domestic or livestock use. The producers rents the equipment for a nominal fee.

"A great deal of co-ordination is required both regionally and provincially to ensure adequate equipment is in the right place at the right time," Atkins says.

The far-reaching water shortages of 1992 were larger than Alberta Agriculture's equipment capability. Nine miles of pipe

Cont'd on page 3

were borrowed from the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

As well, six major projects were completed in co-operation with Alberta Environment and the use of that department's high capacity equipment. "One of these projects pumped five million gallons of water up to 16 miles," notes Atkins.

The program's major cost is repair and maintenance of pumps, pipes and trailers. Repairs are done throughout the winter in preparation for the next season's use.

For more information about the pumping program and other programs offered by the engineering services branch, contact your regional Alberta Agriculture engineer, or Atkins in Lethbridge at 329-1212 or write him at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6.

Contact: Rick Atkins
329-1212

Outstanding in her field

Five per cent of Alberta's 57,245 farmers are women who run their farms on their own. Marj Veno is one of those women.

Her ranch is 24 miles north and east of Hanna in the Spondin district. She runs 300 head of commercial cattle, a majority of them Limo-crossbreds, on 6,400 acres of deeded and leased land.

Her daughter Janet, a grade 11 16-year old, is her helpmate. Last summer, for example, they put up 900 acres of hay with Janet doing all the cutting.

It wasn't always just the two of them. Marj and her husband Greg, both from ranch backgrounds, bought their place in 1980. Greg battled cancer for 13 years. His first bout came in 1978 and reoccurred three more times before he died two years ago. Marj, now 36, who was always involved in the operation, continued on.

People who knew her didn't doubt her capabilities, although she notes there were skeptics. But in her own words, "I can't see myself doing anything else". The ranch was her home and preferred way of life. She says she doesn't care for cities and is often anxious to get home from trips to town.

As well, she had an example in her own family to look to for strength and inspiration. Her paternal grandmother was widowed in 1932 with seven small children. Veno's father, the third eldest was nine, and the youngest child was only a few months old. They lived near Cessford, about 30 miles north of Brooks. "Imagine seven kids in that dust," she says in describing her grandmother's situation on the farm with young children in the Dirty Thirties.

Veno's own efforts haven't gone unnoticed. A long time friend and an area neighbor joined to nominate her as Alberta Farm Women of the Year. She won and recently received the Alberta Farm Women's Network award in Edmonton.

Veno modestly acknowledges that award. She never thought of her farming in tribute-winning terms. "I just live my life every day and take it as it comes," she says.

She does admit that her father Jack Nester, now retired from his own farm and living in Brooks, was thrilled. He called her a couple a days after the award ceremonies and told her she owed him for damages. "What damages?" she asked. "From blowing all my buttons," was his reply.

Veno also champions other women like herself. "I'm real proud of the honor hung on me," she says of the award, "but a lot of women deserve it more than me." She stresses that she's not the only woman farming on her own.

Statistics bear out that statement. While far fewer than one-male farm operators, the 1991 Census of Agriculture counted 1,750 Alberta women as sole farm operators. Most were in two categories. Nearly 40 per cent—695 women—were widows like Veno. The next largest category—34.6 per cent—were married women who farmed on their own.

Mechanization and other technical advances make it easier for women to farm by themselves Veno notes. In her situation, feeding cattle is no longer the hard physical work it once was. For example, she doesn't have to pitch small square bales to feed her herd in the winter.

As well, she's pleased to see official recognition of women as farmers. For the first time, in its 1991 agriculture census, Statistics Canada asked about women operators. The census found a full quarter of Canadian farm operators were female. Women were best represented on two-operator farms where they accounted for 44 per cent of operators.

That recognition is overdue Veno says. In her own community, she says, there are many examples of successful farms where the farm woman is equally involved in the farm, whether out in the field or doing the books. "There are a lot of real capable farm women who have been overlooked for a long time," she says.

Marj Veno is no longer overlooked, but her new celebrity isn't likely to change her. There will still be cattle to feed in the winter, hay to put up in the summer, and soon another calving season will start in April.

Contact: Marj Veno
854-2487

Janet Walter
Alberta Farm Women's Network
347-0660

Conference looks at the new pioneering—diversification

Pioneers of the latter part of the 20th century will share their stories at a farm diversification conference in Red Deer March 23 and 24.

Farm families diversifying their operations today are pioneers of a different kind than their ancestors, but their search has much in common with Alberta's settlers says Janette McDonald Adam, one of the Farmlife and Power conference organizers.

"These farm families are looking beyond traditional agriculture to a farming operation that will give them more independence and

Cont'd on page 4

more control over their farm," she says. "In today's economic climate, you can't just produce more to increase your income. There's more to agriculture than production. Broadening your product in some way, or changing can reduce the need for off-farm incomes and even keep the family on the farm."

The two day conference will feature farmers who have already taken the leap into a diversified business. "As our brochures advertise, come listen to their first hand experiences and take home some tools," says McDonald Adam. "The emphasis in all sessions will be on practical, day-to-day decision making on the farm."

Key-note speaker Norman Storch of Hanna will open the conference by discussing "You don't have to grow wheat to be a farmer". Storch and his wife Leona diversified from poultry to cattle and grain in 1974. They were Alberta's Outstanding Young Farmers in 1987.

Another successful diversifier will also share his story in a general session. From an experiment with 80 acres of sunflowers in 1982, Tom Droog of Bow Island has built Alberta Sunflower Seeds. The company employs 25 people at its plant and another 35 on the road selling products including the popular Spitz sunflower seeds.

The conference will continue with a number of select-a-sessions featuring other farm diversification stories. They include vegetables, tree farming, fish farming, farm manufacturing, flowers and herbs, and agricultural tourism. There will also be sessions on marketing, community revitalization and the basic principles that apply in new ventures from risk management to product distribution.

Registration is $125 per person or $200 per couple for the whole conference. This includes lunch and the GST. There is also a one day registration rate of $70 per person or $130 per couple.

The conference is offered through the University of Alberta's faculty of extension. There are three ways to register. Call 492-3029 with a credit card number, FAX the registration form to 492-1216, or mail a completed registration form to Environmental Resource Management, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2T4.

Conference brochures are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices as well as the extension faculty in Edmonton at 492-3029.

Contact: Janette McDonald Adam
492-3029

Risks and benefits of taking over oil and gas wells

by Clifford W. Downey
Farmers' Advocate of Alberta

[Editor's note: If you use this article, please use the byline.]

With increasing frequency, my office is receiving calls from farmers who have been approached by oil and gas companies wanting them to take over oil or gas wells.

Generally, the company will offer to sell the well to a farmer for a small sum. Sometimes the offer is at a very low price. The company says the farmer can tie the gas well into his farm service and use the gas to meet his farm needs.

If this sounds too good to be true to you—it can be. Farmers need to be aware there can be many down-sides and costs to taking over oil and gas wells.

As a well gets older, production declines and the company may decide a well is no longer profitable. Instead of suspending and reclaiming it, the company may try to sell the well to another company. Failing that, they may offer it to a farmer who either owns the land where the well is located, or who farms nearby.

The advantage for farmers who take over one of these wells is that they may get many years of gas production out of the well at virtually no cost. This could translate into significant savings on gas bills, especially if irrigation or other demanding equipment are involved.

On the other hand, the disadvantages and risks can be many. A farmer who takes over a well is bound by the same laws and regulations as oil and gas companies. If the well is located on someone else's land, the farmer who takes it over is responsible for paying and renegotiating surface lease compensation payments to the landowner.

The greatest risk and potential cost for the farmer arise when the well stops producing. A well can't be abandoned. The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), a government body that regulates the oil and gas industry, requires a well be sealed off below the surface according to technical specifications. This involves cutting off the well casing at a certain depth and sealing it with concrete.

Once the well has been sealed and approved by the ERCB, the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council requires the well site surface be reclaimed to standards equal or better than those of the surrounding land.

This means all equipment and tanks must be removed from the well site. Any contaminated soil, gravel or other debris must be removed and replaced with new soil. The well site must be levelled off and capable of equal crop production before Alberta Environmental Protection will issue a reclamation certificate.

Keep in mind that both the ERCB and the provincial environment department have the power to ensure reclamation is done. If the well owner doesn't do it, these government agencies can have the work done by a contractor and then go after the well owner to pay the bill.

One final area of risk is future liability. Even after a well has been reclaimed and received government approvals, the farmer who took over the well can be held liable for future problems. For example, if there is a problem with the concrete seal, and the well starts to leak gas, the farmer would be responsible for the cost of sealing the leak.

The same applies to a problem with the surface reclamation. New provincial environmental legislation says the well owner can be

Cont'd on page 5

held responsible for cleaning up any problems on a reclaimed well site for up to five years.

As you can see, although taking over a well may at first appear attractive, there can be drawbacks. There may be situations where it's in a farmer's interest to take over a well, but the decision should be made only after the disadvantages and risks have been considered.

For more information on the responsibilities associated with taking over oil and gas wells, contact the ERCB in Calgary at 297-8311, the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council in Edmonton at 427-6212 or one of its regional members in Camrose, Edson, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Peace River, St. Paul, Stony Plain, Wainwright, Calgary, Hanna, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat or Red Deer; the Surface Rights Board in Edmonton at 427-2444, or the Farmers' Advocate's office in Edmonton at 427-2433.

The Alberta Farmers' Advocate can help resolve disputes and act as a mediator. As well, the Farmers' Advocate can provide advice on a varied range of topics. You can call the Farmers' Advocate's office in Edmonton at 427-2433, toll-free through your local government RITE operator.

Contact: Cliff Downey
427-2433

Agri-News briefs

Look for Alberta Made during Ag Week

The Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA) in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture district home economists will be holding Alberta Made demonstrations, pancake breakfasts, banquets, radio remotes and other promotions throughout the province during Agriculture Week. The awareness week is March 7 through 13 this year. "Agriculture Week is the perfect time to highlight the importance of the link between the producer and the processors in the province of Alberta," says Paul Murphy AFPA president. "Alberta's largest manufacturing industry is the food and beverage industry." Murphy adds, "When you buy Alberta Made food and beverage products you not only support local Albertans involved in the processing industry, but you support the local producer as well." For more information, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district home economist, or the Alberta Food Processors Association at 444-2272 in Edmonton.

U-fish Workshop March 3

The Alberta Fish Farmers Association is holding a "u-fish" workshop on March 3 in Red Deer. Among the topics on the day-long agenda are pond design and layout, water quality, licensing, predator control, insurance requirements, a producer panel, marketing and advertising. The $25 registration fee includes lunch. The workshop will be held at the Black Knight Inn. For more information, contact Doug Smith in Innisfail at 227-2112 or 227-6082, or John Bjornson at 662-3474 in Tofield.

DEMAND THE BRAND! TASTE Alberta Made

Charolais Association offers cattle evaluation seminars

The Canadian Charolais Association (CCA) is offering all cattlemen an opportunity to attend a free one-day evaluation seminar. The seminars will be held in Innisfail on March 5, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on March 6 and Wawota, Saskatchewan on March 7. The seminars will be led by Roger Hunsley of Omaha, an internationally known cattle judge and beef industry educator. Seminar topics include skeletal structure and bovine locomotion, bovine anatomy, live animal evaluation and how to apply the information. This the first year the association has held evaluation seminars. For more information, contact Neil Gillies with the CCA in Calgary at 250-9242, or local organizers. They are Allan Marshall in Innisfail at 227-2594; Vern Sparrow in Vanscoy, Saskatchewan at (306)934-1621; and, Neil Dennis, Wawota, Saskatchewan at (306)739-2896 or (306)458-2690.

Field pea update in Westlock March 10

Its theme has a touch of humor: "Man cannot live by bread alone; once in a while he needs a pea", but the agenda promises to take producers to the leading edge of field pea production. The one-day update seminar runs March 10 in Westlock. Among the day's topics are: a market outlook; factors affecting field pea vigor and germination; an economic analysis and three years of results from pulse crops in rotations; a field pea herbicide update; inoculant trials and inoculant quality; pulse month; field pea

Cont'd on page 6

agronomics; the future of pulse crops; and, new pea varieties. The seminar starts with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. sponsored by St. Denis Seed Farms. The $15 registration feed includes lunch. Seminar sponsors are zone three of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, and Morinville and Westlock Alberta Agriculture district offices. To pre-register, call 939-4351 in Morinville or 349-4465 in Westlock by March 5.

Shelterbelt planning workshop

A one-day workshop in Drumheller on March 18 will provide participants with information on how to plan and prepare farm shelterbelts. Among the topics are shelterbelt varieties, site selection, maintenance, weed control, Tree Plan Canada and the Municipal District of Starland's conservation shelterbelt program. Pre-registration is requested by March 16. For more information, contact Don Poisson, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Drumheller, at 823-1675, or Alan Hampton, agricultural fieldman, in Morrin at 772-3888.

Smoky River Agricultural Trade Show March 19-21

Visions of change is the theme for the 1993 Smoky River Agricultural Trade Show in Falher March 19 and 21. Two of the show's new features are agro-electronic displays and a recreation, home and leisure show. The agriculture show, held in the Falher arena, includes 180 exhibitors from equipment dealers to grain buyers. The show is co-ordinated by the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA). It is held every second year in Falher. For more information, contact Roch Bremont in Falher at 837-2211.

CWB Grain Day'93 coming to Alberta

Alberta producers are invited to have breakfast with the Canadian Wheat Board—and the Canadian Grain Commission, Canadian International Grains Institute, the Grain Transportation Agency and the grain trade—at a local Grain Day'93. The events in Alberta will be March 30 at the Westlock District Community Hall, March 31 at the Stettler Seniors Drop-In Centre, April 1 at Vermilion Elks Hall, April 6 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Vulcan and April 7 at the Elks Community Hall in Grimshaw. Each Grain Day'93 will start with a pancake breakfast between 8 and 10 a.m. Presentations on selling the '92 crop, barley marketing, a 1993 outlook, Glenlea and CPS wheat prospects, and quotas and contracts will follow. Barley producers are also invited to bring in a barley sample for a maltster to look at it. Similar events will run in a total of 14 communities across the Prairies. For more information, contact the CWB in Winnipeg at (204)983-3421.

Western Canadian Dairy seminar March 9-12

The 11th annual Western Canadian Dairy seminar will be held in Red Deer March 9 through 12. The 1993 program focuses on a variety of management topics including strategies to reach 16,300 kg of milk and herd health. A panel of four progressive producers will discuss secrets of their success. A final session, "Towards a sustainable future", will examine product development, altering milk composition, investment decisions and environmental liability. For registration information, call Kathy Bush at 492-2601. For more information about the seminar, call Dr. John Kennelly at 492-1360.

Coming agricultural events

Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary February 28-March 2
Joan McEvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

93rd annual Calgary Bull Sale
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary February 28-March 3
Joan McEvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Poultry Industry Conference
Capri Motor Inn
Red Deer March 1-3
Pork and poultry section - 427-5370 - Edmonton

U-fish workshop (Alberta Fish Farmers Association)
Black Knight Inn
Red Deer March 1
Doug Smith - 227-2112 or 227-6082 - Innisfail; John Bjornson - 662-3474 - Tofield

Beef and dairy cattle AI short course
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 1-11
March 22-April 1
Christine Spasoff - 853-8566 - Vermilion

Lethbridge Ag Expo
Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge March 3-6
Twyla Gurr - 328-4491 - Lethbridge

Team penning clinic
Lakeland College Riding Arena
Vermilion March 5-7
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-4127

Agriculture Week
Alberta March 7-13
Bard Haddrell - 427-2127 - Edmonton

Canadian Forage Council
International Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba March 7-10
Marjorie Zingle or Gina Grosenick - 244-4487 - Calgary

Unifarm council meeting
Nisku Inn
Nisku March 8
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
Capri Centre
Red Deer March 9-12
Judy Carss - 492-2343 - Edmonton

Field Pea update
Westlock New Community Hall
Westlock March 10
Alberta Agriculture Morinville district office - 939-4351 - Morinville; Westlock district office - 349-4465 - Westlock

Peace Country Classic
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie March 11-13
John Fraser - 532-3279 - Grande Prairie

Women of Unifarm meeting
West Harvest Inn
Edmonton March 12
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

Reining clinics
Lakeland College Riding Arena
Vermilion March 12-14
April 16-18
April 23-25
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or 1-800-661-4127

Beef and dairy cattle AI refresher course
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 15-16
Christine Spasoff - 853-8566 - Vermilion

Shelterbelt planning workshop
Drumheller Inn
Drumheller March 18
Don Poisson - 823-1675 - Drumheller; Alan Hampton - 772-3888 - Morrin

Bull test station open house
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 18
David Clennett - 853-8595 - Vermilion

Alberta Institute of Agrologists 47th annual conference
Highlander Hotel
Calgary March 18-20
AIA provincial office - 432-0663 - Edmonton

Little Royal Weekend and open house
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 19-21
Cathy MacKenzie - 853-8544 - Vermilion

Smoky River agricultural trade show
Falher Arena and Knights Hall
Falher March 19-21
Roch Bremont - 837-2211 - Falher

Office administration and management for the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Olds College
Olds March 22-26
Extension services - 556-8344 - Olds

Beef and dairy cattle A.I. course
Lakeland College A.I. barn
Vermilion March 22-April 1
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-4127

Farmlife and Power: a farm diversification conference
Westerner Park
Red Deer March 23-24
Janette McDonald Adam - 492-3029 - Edmonton

Northlands Farm and Ranch Show
Agri-Com, Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton March 23-26
Leroy Emerson - 471-7210 - Edmonton

9th annual bull test sale
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 27
David Clennett - 853-8595 - Vermilion

Barrel racing clinic
Hill Equestrian Centre
Lloydminster March 27-28
Lakeland College continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-4127

Canada Wheat Board Grain Day '93
Westlock District Community Hall March 30
Stettler Senior Drop-In Centre March 31
Vermilion Elks Hall April 1
Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Vulcan April 6
Elks Community Hall, Grimshaw April 7
Curtis Ewachu - (204)983-3421 - Winnipeg, Manitoba

Aggie Days and the Dairy Classic
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 31-April 3
Joan McEvoy - 261-0162

3rd annual Canadian Ostrich Association seminar
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton April 3-4
Alex Goudreau - 929-5746 - Beaumont

Introductory farrier course
Lakeland College A.I. Barn
Vermilion April 8-12
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-4127

National Soil Conservation Week
April 19-25
Barb Shackel - 422-4385 - Edmonton

Lakeland College performance horse sale
Nilsson Bros. Livestock Exchange
Vermilion April 22
Bill Conrad - 853-8459 - Vermilion; Gary Cooper - 853-8587 - Vermilion

Water chemistry seminar - The total ground water picture
Hilton Hotel
Edmonton April 28-30
Greg Thibault - 352-3337 - Wetaskiwin
Peer Mikkelsen - 652-3297 - High River

Alberta Home Economics Association conference
Holiday In Crowne Plaza
Edmonton April 29-May 1
Linda St. Onge - 427-2412 - Edmonton

Stock dog training clinic
Lakeland College Riding Arena
Vermilion April 30-May 2
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; or, 1-800-661-4127

Growing Christmas Trees
Edmonton April 30-May 1
Brent Waite - 492-3029 - Edmonton

Western Pleasure riding clinic
Lakeland College Riding Arena
Vermilion May 8-9
Continuing education - 853-8444 - Vermilion; 1-800-661-4127

Alberta Food Processors Association annual meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton May 20
Joan Forge - 444-2272 - Edmonton

4th International Conference on Pig Reproduction
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri May 23-26
B.N. Day - (314)882-7555 - Columbia, Missouri

Alberta Agricultural Forum
Port 'o Call Inn
Calgary May 31
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

The National
Spruce Meadows
Calgary June 2 -6
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

7th annual Alberta Dairy Congress
Black Gold Centre
Leduc June 3-5
Iris Yanish - 986-5454 - Leduc

4-H On Parade
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 4-6
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Canadian Hereford Association annual meeting
Fredericton Inn
Fredericton, New Brunswick June 5-6
Vance Wilson - (506)452-7810 - Fredericton, New Brunswick

Livestock judging seminar
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 7-9
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Joint Alberta Women's Institute and Women of Unifarm convention
Olds College
Olds June 8-10
AWI - 469-1254 - Edmonton; Women of Unifarm - 451-4912 - Edmonton

19th Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer June 15-17
Pat Kennedy - 340-5307 - Red Deer

Society for Range Management (Northern Great Plains section/ Prairie-Parkland chapter) summer tour and meeting
Cypress Hills Provincial Park, Saskatchewan June 17-19
Daryl Tumbach - (306)-662-2464 - Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences
Clearly International Centre
Windsor, Ontario June 17-19
CFBS - (613)234-9555 - Ottawa, Ontario

6th annual Alberta Cowboy Poet Gathering
Pincher Creek Fairgrounds and Community Hall
Pincher Creek June 18-20
Anne Stevick - 627-4733 - Pincher Creek; Bev Barr - 628-2115 - Cowley

Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute Conference'93
Gull Harbour Resort
Hecla Island, Manitoba June 19-21
CFIEI - (416)632-8483 - Burlington, Ontario

International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management for the 21st Century
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge June 20-26
Cindy LaValley - 329-2244 - Lethbridge

VII World Conference on Animal Production
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton June 28 to July 2
Bob Hudson - 492-2111 - Edmonton

Alberta Ram Test Station sale
Olds Cow Palace
Olds July 3
Kim Stanford - 381-5150 - Lethbridge; 948-8517 - Airdrie

Fibre Week
Olds College
Olds July 5-9
Extension services - 556-8344 - Olds

4th International Livestock Environment Symposium
Warwick Conference Centre
Coventry, England July 6-9
Jon Hiler - (616)429-0300 - St. Joseph, Missouri; Eldridge Collins - (703)231-7600 - Blacksburg, Virgina

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop
Capri Hotel
Red Deer July 7-9
Dr. Terry Roberts - 345-4460 - Coaldale

The North American
Spruce Meadows
Calgary July 7-11
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Stampede Grounds
Calgary July 9-18
Joan McEvoy - 261-0162

Hort Week
Olds College
Olds July 18-23
Extension services - 556-8344

Unifarm summer council meeting
Wainwright July 19
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

1st International Bison Conference
La Crosse Convention Centre
La Crosse, Wisconsin July 27-31
Canadian Bison Association - (204)822-3219 - Morden, Manitoba

39th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology
Calgary August 1-6
Andre Fortin - (613)993-6002 - Ottawa, Ontario

Annual conference Agricultural Institute of Canada "Food: Security and Nutrition"
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland August 18-22
Donna Kelland (709)729-5090 - St. John's, Newfoundland; Sale Sudom - (709)772-6064 - St. John's, Newfoundland

A FEASTival of Fine Chefs
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton August 25
Joan Forage, Alberta Food Processors Association - 444-2272 - Edmonton

The Masters and Equi-Fair
Spruce Meadows
Calgary September 8-12
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

Canadian Cattle Penning Finals
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary September 18-19
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

4th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare
Edinburgh, Scotland September 18-21

J. Savory - 031 440 2726 - Roslin, Scotland

Equipment Manufacturers Institute 100th anniversary
Fairmont Hotel
Chicago, Illinois September 25-27
CFIEI - (416)632-8483 - Burlington, Ontario

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise October 5-7
Rod Chernos - 948-8533 - Airdrie

International Dairy Federation groups of experts meeting (Topic is protein standardization in milk)
Banff Centre
Banff October 7-8
P. Jeleu - 492-2480 - Edmonton

Canadian Cutting Horse Futurity
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary October 14-16
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Prairie West Horticultural trade show
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton November 4-5
Judith Grant - 489-1991 - Edmonton

Agri-Trade International Farm Equipment and Services exposition
Westerner Park
Red Deer November 10-13
Pat Kennedy - 347-4491 - Red Deer

Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed in the "Coming Agricultural Events" list. A list of agricultural society fairs was compiled by the community and rural services branch and is available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice form

Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in 1993? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

1. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by May 26, 1993 to:

Agri-News Editor
Print Media Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed June 7, 1993)

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 8, 1993

Beware of summer slaughter cattle price decline

While slaughter cattle markets are currently riding high, Alberta producers should be wary because a larger-than-normal price decline could come this summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"With cattle prices so high right now, you may begin to hear justifications for continued high prices over the summer months in spite of estimates of large cattle supplies this spring and summer," says Ron Gietz. "In 1991, before a large price drop, the favorite story was that the USDA was 'double counting' in their Cattle on Feed report. Perhaps this year the optimists will say the impact of the harsh winter hasn't been factored in."

In February Western Canadian fed cattle prices benefitted from strength in the U.S. market, tight local supplies and much more aggressive bidding from local packers adds Gietz. "New record high steer prices were established in the Alberta market on an almost weekly basis during February."

However, in the middle of the excitement about a strong cattle market are USDA Cattle on Feed reports that are "becoming increasingly negative" he says. "Every successive report since October has provided additional evidence of growing supplies of cattle in U.S. feedlots. This should be an orange warning flag to the industry that the spring and summer cattle marketings will be large."

Gietz projects average Alberta slaughter cattle prices at $91/cwt. through March, dropping to $88 in April and down to $82 by August. "This assumes weather ceases as a major factor in the U.S. market by mid-March, the Canada-U.S. exchange rate stays around 80 cents and the local basis is about $2/cwt. narrower than last year," he says.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

Agriculture
Week'93
March 7-13, 1993
Seeds of Opportunity

Long term Canadian feeder cattle prices slightly negative

Beef supply and demand as well the Canada/U.S. exchange rate all point to lower long term Canadian feeder prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Ron Gietz says all three factors affecting long term Canadian feeder cattle prices prospects are slightly negative. Per capita beef supplies will increase, demand will be stable to weaker and the Canadian dollar's value may go up. "If this assessment is correct, feeder cattle prices will gradually drift lower over the next several years. Perhaps, they'll turn for higher ground late in the decade."

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Beware of summer slaughter cattle price decline 1

Long term Canadian feeder cattle prices slightly negative 1

Feed wheat market outlook flat 2

Lamb demand increases with holidays 2

March 15 nomination deadline for agriculture and food council 3

Farm business management skills hit television airwaves 3

Workshop goes from pie dreams to saskatoon orchards 3

Three new inductees in Agriculture Hall of Fame 4

Creating Tomorrow documents released 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

For full-time cow/calf producers to survive and prosper in the 1990s, Gietz says they will need to target their market in terms of both product and timing of sale. "Reducing production costs to the bare minimum will also be important," he adds.

Gietz says he believes the expansion of beef supplies will continue into the mid-1990s, but at a very modest pace. He projects less than three per cent annually. "At this rate of expansion, per capita beef supplies will increase very gradually. That's balanced against beef demand in both the U.S. and Canada that has been decreasing since the early 1980s.

"Considering the intense competition beef will continue to face from low cost poultry and pork, I expect U.S. and Canadian domestic demand for beef to continue to decline slightly in the next few years," he says.

On the positive side, he adds, further growth in export markets, such as Japan and Mexico, could help compensate for poor demand at home.

The third factor in Gietz's outlook is the Canada/U.S. exchange rate. A lower Canadian dollar has been a major contributor to the price strength in Canadian feeder cattle markets over the last few months. Any move to a higher exchange rate would contribute to lower prices. Similarly, a lower exchange rate would boost prices.

"Partly because the Canadian dollar is near the low end of its historical trading range, I expect a gradual increase in the value of the Canadian dollar over time," he says. "Unfortunately though, there's no reliable method of predicting future exchange rates."

Gietz also emphasizes "gradual" in his long term outlook for cow/calf producers. "Based on the current extremely modest pace of expansion, the sudden 'wrecks' and wild feeder cattle price swings experienced in previous cattle cycles are unlikely," he says.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

Feed wheat market outlook flat

Feed wheat markets will be flat for another year with the possibility of further price drops says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Growing wheat for the feed market this coming year could be a difficult proposition," says Larry Ruud.

Large carryovers of both feed wheat and barley are expected, and barring a major drought somewhere in the world, corn prices are going nowhere fast he adds. "If you're thinking about feed wheat, carefully consider net returns against those for other crops you're able to grow," he advises.

Currently, for grades other than feed, Ruud suggests farmers continue delivering to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). "There's no advantage in holding stocks into the next crop year," he says. CWB initial prices for milling grade wheats are low relative to world price levels he notes.

In the markets, wheat futures have backed off considerably since the third week of January. "Lack of Chinese purchases and Russian credit problems continue to plague the international wheat market," says Ruud. "As well, the U.S. winter wheat crop looks to be in good shape, and the U.S. wheat crop will have a good start this spring from favorable moisture conditions last fall."

Ruud notes there continues to be speculation that Russian credit problems will be resolved in the near future. "Most countries, however, have suspended shipments there and until the problem is resolved, markets will be more negative and volatile than normal for this time of year."

Contact: *Larry Ruud*
427-5386

Lamb demand increases with holidays

Religious observances can be a boon for lamb producers, but they need to know their market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Moslems observing Ramadan usually end their month long period of fasting with lamb. Ramadan ends on March 24. That's followed closely by Easter, another traditional time for lamb," says Jo Ann Sandhu. She adds June 1 marks the beginning of Eid-ul-Adha, a three-day period when Moslems sacrifice lambs in order to share meat among their families, friends and needy people.

"Lamb producers need to keep in mind that these holidays call for specific types of lambs and the markets should be investigated before you target your production for them," she says.

Supplies of slaughter lambs are likely to become very tight as demand hits its seasonal peak in the next few months. "Prices are likely to surge dramatically, but their extent is difficult to project," she says. "There is a good news factor. Easter price levels will likely be maintained since there's a record low lamb crop expected in the U.S. this year."

Increases in slaughter lamb prices had been moderating as large numbers of old crop lambs on feed in the U.S. were sold. Most of those lambs have now been marketed she adds. Slaughter lamb markets did improve last month. Local price gains were limited by a small increase in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to its U.S. counterpart.

Sandhu expects imports of lamb and mutton from New Zealand and Australia will probably increase, but not by much. "Australia is in the middle of a flock expansion after drought and low wool prices drastically reduced inventories during the past few years," she notes.

Contact: *Jo Ann Sandhu*
427-5387

March 15 nomination deadline for agriculture and food council

Nominations for a council to oversee implementing the "Creating Tomorrow" vision, goals and strategies will close on March 15.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has invited nominations to the new unnamed council. He sent a widely distributed letter throughout the agriculture and food industry encouraging stakeholders to get involved. Isley offered to establish a council to continue the process started by an industry advisory group at the conclusion of the Creating Tomorrow Conference in Red Deer on January 8, 1993.

Nominations can be directed to Isley's office in Edmonton at 208 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2B6. The telephone number is 427-2137.

Creating Tomorrow was a consultation with people interested and involved with the agriculture and food industry. It included a series of public meetings across the province in 1992 and the final conference in Red Deer.

"Creating Tomorrow produced a document that charts a future for the agri-food industry in Alberta, as well as the paths that we can follow to achieve that future," says Isley. "We now face the challenge of ensuring that we follow those paths. Implementation of the Creating Tomorrow blueprint is our first priority—and the council will help transform that blueprint into reality."

The self-supporting council will encourage and guide implementation of Creating Tomorrow principles and directions into the planning processes of industry stakeholders, as well as government. With a proposed rotating membership of approximately 20 members, the council will represent a cross-section of industry perspectives.

Isley adds the Alberta government can't and shouldn't be the primary force in implementing the Creating Tomorrow blueprint. While government has a supporting role, industry must lead the way in achieving the vision identified by Creating Tomorrow participants.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2137	*427-2145*

Farm business management skills hit television airwaves

Alberta farmers are being introduced to skills that will help them become more self-reliant and survive in today's competitive agriculture industry through a television program.

In a series of province-wide live television programs developed by the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) farmers can start learning farm business management skills at home.

"FBMI stresses the need for Alberta farm families to develop and apply farm business management skills to stay afloat in today's increasingly competitive agriculture industry," says Anita Lunden, FBMI's provincial co-ordinator.

Three live television phone-in programs are scheduled to run during Agriculture Week. The series is titled "Making Decisions—A special on farm business management".

The first show aired yesterday (Sunday March 7) on CKRD-TV in Red Deer at 5 p.m. Today, (Monday March 8) another live program will air on CHAT-TV in Medicine Hat between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. A half-four feature will run on Lloydminster's CITL-TV on March 10 starting at 7 a.m.

A third hour-long show is scheduled for CISA-TV in Lethbridge on April 7 starting at 7 p.m.

The shows offer viewers a chance to phone in with their questions and start the learning process about farm business management without leaving their home emphasizes Lunden. Callers can direct their questions to three panel speakers. The speakers will include someone representing FBMI, a management expert and a local farmer.

"Offering a live phone-in program gives farmers the opportunity to ask farm managment experts questions and share their insights in coping with today's changing agricultural scene," says Les Usher of Agriculture Canada's agri-food development branch.

"It's important we focus on the many controllable elements of farming," adds Lunden. "FBMI tries to improve those skills necessary for farmers to manage and adapt to change. These special television programs offer advice and information on farm management courses, seminars, conferences and consulting services available through the FBMI program."

The Canada/Alberta Farm Management Initiative combines the efforts of government and private industry to provide farm business management training, services and information to the farm community.

Contact:	*Anita Lunden*	*Les Usher*
	556-4278	*495-5528*
	Tracey Munro	
	556-4240	

Workshop goes from pie dreams to saskatoon orchards

A craving for saskatoon pie and no way to satisfy it set Len Pearson on a mission that made him Canada's first commercial native fruit grower.

Pearson, a dentist by profession, wasn't looking for a farm diversification project when he started his saskatoon business near Bowden in the late 1960s. But Alberta farmers who are interested in changing or expanding their operation can learn about Pearson's experience and from other experts at a saskatoon production workshop and information seminar in Edmonton March 19 and 20.

Cont'd on page 4

Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Agriculture's fruit crop specialist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center, will be one of the feature speakers at the workshop. He'll discuss how to establish and manage a saskatoon orchard plus an overview of the industry. "I'll be discussing location including proximity to market, soil types and shelter. Management will include issues such as nutrition, planting specifics such as orchard design, row spacing and plant varieties, and weed and pest control," says the Brooks based specialist. Hausher will also talk about the industry's history and its future direction.

"Potential growers need to think about more than how they will grow saskatoons. They also need to think about who is going to buy their berries. Are they growing them for the commercial market, or do they want a u-pick operation. Your location is a factor, and the answer to those questions also determine how you set up your orchard," he says.

Also on the agenda are two grower profiles. Featured are Joe Uhryn of Spruce Grove and Sandra Backmeyer from Hythe. Backmeyer, a member of the Peace River Fruit Growers Co-operative, will also discuss how the co-operative is growing. Pearson is also on the agenda. He is president of the Alberta Fruit Growers Association, the workshop sponsor. Pearson will discuss the association's goals and look ahead at the industry's future.

Other topics on the workshop agenda are irrigating a saskatoon orchard, a research round-up and an update on two common pests, the wooly elm aphid and entomosporium.

The workshop will be held at the Northlanda Agri-Com. Pre-registration is $30 for association members and $35 for non-members. Registration costs go up by five dollars at the door. Registration cheques–made payable to the AFGA seminar account–can be sent to 54053 Range Road 215, Ardrossan, Alberta, T0B 0E0, Attention: Shirley.

Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

Three new inductees in Agriculture Hall of Fame

Three more Albertans have been inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fall for their distinguished service to agriculture.

Hubert Anderson of Barrhead, Allan Beattie of Calgary and Herbert Hargrave of Walsh were honoured at a ceremony in Red Deer last Friday (March 5) as a kick-off to agriculture week in the province. Their induction brings the total Hall of Fame membership to 94. The first inductions were made in 1951.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley officially inducted the three newest members. He praised the dedication shown by the inductees to their communities and the agriculture industry. "Leaders and innovators, these men have spent a lifetime committed to progress. They have devoted themselves to enhancing their rural communities while promoting the business of agriculture. From local committee to national boardroom, they have influenced program development and policy decisions across the country for over 50 years."

Anderson was involved with agricultural initiatives and associations in the Barrhead area for over 40 years. He founded and chaired numerous local organizations including the original Coop Seed Cleaning Plant and the community's first rural telephone system. An Alberta Wheat Pool member for 32 years, he served as an advisor on several provincial and federal committees as well as 16 years on the Pool's provincial board.

Beattie promoted agriculture through both his career and professional affiliations. Highly respected as a district agriculturalist for Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Wheat Pool's director of public relations, Beattie made significant contributions as advisor to and spokesperson for the industry. As a communications specialist, he started such unique and successful projects as the 4-H public speaking program and competition, the Grain Academy and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's Country College. Beattie was made a Fellow of the Agriculture Institute of Canada in 1980 and was awarded a life membership in the Canadian Society of Extension in the summer of 1992.

Hargrave is a fourth-generation rancher and a product of the short-grass cattle country north of the Cypress Hills near Medicine Hat. He improved stock quality, developed water conservation techniques and designed specialized machinery for range management. To streamline cattle marketing and shipping to the east, he founded the Walsh Cattle Marketing Association and remained its president for 25 years. Among his many industry affiliations was a long association with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. He also served three terms as a member of parliament and later sat on the boards of the Universities of Calgary and Alberta. He is also a member of the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Billings, Montana.

Hall of Fame inductees are chosen on the basis of their exceptional personal qualities and for their significant contributions to agriculture and rural life in Alberta. Nomination forms are available by writing the Information Services Division, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 5T6, or calling 427-2127. Nominations usually close at the end of July.

The Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame is located in the department's headquarters building in Edmonton. The J.G. O'Donoghue building address is7000-113 Street in Edmonton. The Hall of Fame is on the first floor.

Contact:	*Bard Haddrell*	*Dwight Dibben*
	427-2127	*427-2137*

Creating Tomorrow documents available

The Creating Tomorrow vision document and the proceedings of the January Creating Tomorrow conference are now available.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley announced the release of

Cont'd on page 5

"Creating Tomorrow: A direction for Alberta's agriculture and food industry" and the January 8 conference proceedings by the Creating Tomorrow Industry Advisory Group.

The vision document is the culmination of a first-ever consultation process looking at the future of Alberta's agriculture and food industry. About 2,000 people participated through province-wide meetings and the final conference. The document identifies a vision, goals for the future and strategies to achieve them. A redraft of a first "Creating Tomorrow" paper released by the industry group last year, the vision document contains input from the 500 participants at the Red Deer conference. Details of that input can be found in the conference report and proceedings.

"Keeping up the energy and enthusiasm generated by the Creating Tomorrow process will depend on the people in the industry as a whole," says Isley. "They are the key in turning Creating Tomorrow plans into reality. Individual sectors must see themselves as being part of a larger whole that is working with a farmgate-to-consumers'-plates philosophy." He encouraged Creating Tomorrow participants to spread the results.

Isley also confirms his commitment to testing the department's strategic and operational plans and programs against the Creating Tomorrow results. A white paper will be developed to outline how the Alberta government intends to deliver its share of the Creating Tomorrow blueprint.

For a copy of the vision document, contact the department's planning secretariat at 427-2417.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2137	*427-2145*

Agri-News briefs

Special crop markets generally quiet

With the exception of the seed pea market, major special crop markets are expected to trade in a fairly narrow range for the remainder of the crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Al Dooley advises producers to continue to sell green peas at current prices. The lentil market, he says, has now returned closer to historic average levels. "I hope most of your crop was sold when No. 1 Lairds were at the 20 cent level and above," he adds. Lentil prices in 1993-94 are expected to be close to the 15 cent level, if quality is near normal and acreage is close to 1992's. "If your view of the new crop year is more positive, holding good quality old crop into 1993-94 is a possible strategy," he says. "Pay attention to crop deterioration and the costs of storage if you're considering holding 1992 crop lentils," Dooley adds. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Forage seed markets remain quiet

Forage seed markets remain very quiet says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Resellers were a feature of the creeping red fescue market over much of February," says Al Dooley. "Some in the trade expect new buying to occur during March and April. If this happens, it will help support prices." Oregon and Canadian grass seed crops seem to be in good shape he notes. "If no problems occur, the chances of 1992 fescue prices again hitting the 75 cents per pound level are less and less likely," he says. Consumption over the next months will be critical to price direction over the remainder of the crop year he adds. "With average yields in 1993, prices in the new crop year may be around 50 cents per pound for common seed," he projects. Dooley adds the clover seed market probably won't improve over the balance of the crop year. U.S. sales—the main Canadian market—have been sluggish. "Most likely we'll have to wait until next fall before significant buyer interest returns," he says. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Weather impacts hog market during February

Weather affected U.S. hog markets as well as cattle markets during February says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Hog marketings were consistently below expectations says Ron Gietz. "Speculation is that severe storms prevented producers in the Midwest from marketing as many hogs as they had planned," he says. "The question now is whether marketings were low only because of the weather, or also because recent inventory reports have slightly overestimated hog numbers." Gietz adds there may be a temporary surge in slaughter hog marketings in the U.S. during coming weeks if winter storms were the main reason for the reduced February marketings. "My expectation though, is for steady prices ahead with slight seasonal increases in May and June," he says. Gietz's average producer payment price projections for Alberta Index-100 hogs are for $1.35/kg during March and going up by five cents each month through to June. "Prices in the second half of 1993 are likely to average below prices in the first half of the year," he adds. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Barley blocked by mild weather and wheat glut

Mild weather and the surplus of feed wheat continue to be negative weights on producers trying to sell barley says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. An exceptionally large U.S. corn crop also overshadows the feedgrain market says Larry Ruud. "With off-board prices in all regions except southern Alberta coming within $15 to $20 per tonne of local Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) initial prices, you may want to consider selling some of your stocks to the board," says Ruud. "CWB initial prices, as compared to world prices, are low by about $15 to $20 per tonne." With all the available feed grain, producers are also assessing the amount of barley and wheat they'll grow in 1993 he adds. "I wouldn't be surprised to see barley acreage drop again this year," he says. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

CAP provides agricultural experience

An expected 550 volunteers are expected to bring agriculture to urban classrooms during Agriculture Week in Alberta. The volunteers are part of the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP). These volunteers will make 45 minute presentations to approximately 26,000 grade four students in over 1,100 Alberta classrooms. The 1993 theme is "partners". Judy Fenton, CAP chair, says the program reinforces the fact all Albertans are partners with farmers and ranchers. The program has reached over 165,000 elementary students since it started in 1985. CAP is supported by the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Alberta Canola Commission, Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Egg Producers, Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission, Alberta Fresh Vegetable Producers, Alberta Milk Producers, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Potato Producers of Alberta, Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture, Alberta Women's Institutes and the Beef Education Association. For more information, contact Fenton in Irma at 754-2257, or Joanne Lemke in Calgary at 275-4400.

Little Royal Lakeland College open house focuses on Agriculture

Great displays, a buffalo banquet and antique vehicles are all a part of this year's Little Royal Weekend at Lakeland College in Vermilion March 19 through 21. The weekend kicks off with a pancake breakfast Friday morning and an open house 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. About 40 displays will showcase college programs and services plus hands-on activities for visitors. With the college marking its 80th anniversary, a special historical display will feature a 1915 Model A Ford, a 1923 Model T Ford and a 1946 Hudson. An agricultural judging competition, with university and college teams from across Canada and 4-H teams from Alberta and Saskatchewan, runs on Friday. Tours of the college farm are offered both days. This includes a petting zoo. Other Friday events include a buffet luncheon featuring a hip of buffalo prepared by students in the cooking program and an escorted tour to the college's Lloydminster campus. There's also a free swim/pool party from 4 through 6 p.m. Friday concludes with a concert featuring Lisa Brokop. Saturday events include a horse show, drama mini performance and a "coffee corral" with musical entertainment. Free mini workshops run Saturday afternoon. They include line dancing, lawn care, bedding plants and color trends in home decorating. The weekend wraps up with a now traditional intercollegiate rodeo. Performances are Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Cathy McKenzie at 853-8544.

Aggie days comes to Stampede Grounds March 31 - April 3

Aggie Days offers urban students and families a chance to experience the world of agriculture. Held in conjunction with the annual Stampede Dairy Classic, the event is organized by the agriculture education committee of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. Tours for Calgary and rural students are hosted from March 31 through April 2 and show how agriculture affects every day lives. Among the exhibits are egg marketing, flour milling, cow milking, hay and seed, poultry, rabbits, weaving, heavy horses and ranching to rodeo. April 3 is family fun day. An annual feature is Lammle's celebrity ag challenge with teams of local celebrities attempting basic agriculture skills. Admission is free and activities are at the Agriculture Pavilion. Last year's event hosted over 3,000 school tours. For more information, contact Joan McEvoy in Calgary at 261-9316, or 1-800-661-1260.

Dairy Classic entries close March 12

Entries for the 1993 Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic close on March 12. The show runs March 31 through April 3. The show includes 18 classes as well as the Alpha Milk showmanship class for juniors (ages eight to 14), seniors (ages 15 to 18) and mature (19 years and over). Special awards up for grabs are the George Longeway Memorial Trophy for the grand champion Ayrshire, the Sam & Tom Chalack Memorial Trophy for the grand champion Holstein, the John Atkins Memorial Trophy for the junior champion Holstein, the Francis Wright Memorial Trophy for the best Holstein udder, the Jug Award for a milking Holstein female that places in the top three in any milking classes, rookie of the year, and premier breeder and exhibitor awards. For more information, contact Karen Legault in Calgary at 261-0271, or 1-800-661-1260.

3rd annual Canadian Ostrich Association seminar April 3 - 4

The Canadian Ostrich Association will hold its third annual seminar April 3 and 4 in Edmonton. Keynote speaker is Gene Pfeiffer, president of the American Ostrich Association, who will discuss the international ostrich industry. Among the other agenda topics are incubation and hatching management and promotion of ostrich products. The association will also hold its annual meeting. Another feature is a fund-raiser auction to support the national association's programs. The seminar will be held at the Edmonton Inn. For more information, contact Alex Goudreau, Alberta Ostrich Breeders Association director, in Beaumont at 929-5746.

New videos highlight meat quality and canola

Two of the videos now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library look at meat quality issues and the canola industry's success. In "Issues on the table: Meat quality assurance in Canada", a livestock producer, an animal health scientist, a veterinarian, an Agriculture Canada meat inspector and a butcher explain why consumers can have assurance in the quality of Canadian meat. An accompanying kit includes printed articles that are critical the farming industry with suggested responses that can be used in articles, letters or newsletters. The other video, a production of the Canola Council of Canada, is a non-technical overview of what makes Canadian grown canola a unique and internationally acclaimed oilseed. "Canola: An industry's success" is seven and one-half minutes long. An information booklet and a 14 question short answer quiz are included in the package. For loan information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 15, 1993

Alberta Agriculture's name changes

The provincial agriculture department has a new name: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Department Minister Ernie Isley announced the change saying the new name emphasizes the Alberta government's commitment to the province's diverse agriculture and food industry.

"Our name change recognizes that the department's responsibilities to its clients go beyond the production and marketing of commodities to include enterprises that process and market value-added products. The Alberta government is committed to helping the industry place Alberta Made food products in new markets," says Isley. "As the international marketplace remains awash in surplus production of commodities, Alberta must concentrate on placing value-added products in niche markets.

"Our commitment to primary producers remains firm; that commitment is further enhanced as we serve all sectors of our interdependent industry," he adds.

The name change became effective on March 4, 1993.

During recent public consultations, participants emphasized the diversity of the agriculture and food industry in Alberta. These Creating Tomorrow participants acknowledged the industry is composed of a variety of partners and communication between those partners must be enhanced. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is committed to enhancing that communication.

Creating Tomorrow participants also stressed the need to improve the quality of life in rural Alberta. Both they, and participants in the Local Development Initiative (LDI), emphasized the need for a strong and viable rural Alberta.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2137	*427-2145*

Pesticide training course changing behavior

Taking the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program has changed many farmers' practices when it comes to handling and using pesticides says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"From a survey we did with the course's first 1,000 participants, we saw some tremendous changes in practices that reduce exposure to chemicals and are safer for both the farmer and farm family," says Bertha Eggertson provincial clothing and textiles specialist with the home economics branch.

Many of the changes came in more use of basic protective clothing such as nearly three-quarters of survey respondents wearing the recommended unlined nitrile gloves. But there were also changes beyond those basics she says. [See attached graph.]

As well, after the course approximately 80 per cent of pesticide applicators changed their protective clothing immediately after spraying or at the end of the day. "This was one of the most

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Alberta Agriculture's name changes 1

Pesticide training course changing behavior 1

Cab charcoal filter use on rise 2

Groundwater exploration funded by CASEA 3

Lead change, don't let it lead you 3

Hawaiian bees coming to Alberta 4

Sponsors reaffirm commitment to farm safety 4

Choose your strawberry season 5

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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frequent positive changes we found in the 1992 survey," she says. "a 15 per cent increase in that practice after farmers took the course."

Some of the other positive changes were more farmers protecting their hands while cleaning sprayer nozzles (up 16 per cent), not entering farm vehicles while wearing pesticide-soiled clothing (11 per cent less) and not eating, drinking or smoking while wearing contaminated clothing (a nine per cent decrease).

"Another good change we've seen is applicators taking off their pesticide soiled clothing before they enter the house, and if the clothing isn't washed immediately it's bagged and kept away from the regular laundry," she says. "There's also more care taken when farmers are working with granular chemicals. They are checking pockets and cuffs outside the house for any traces of the chemical and then removing them," she adds.

Laundering practices have also changed significantly. "One of the most notable things is that 27 per cent of applicators were doing the laundering themselves," notes Eggertson.

The most frequent positive changes in the survey were increases in washing pesticide soiled clothing immediately (nine per cent), washing protective clothing separate from regular wash (12 per cent) and storing clothes separately before washing (11 per cent).

"The survey results not only were valuable in showing how safety practices are changing, but also in pointing out the areas where more awareness and further education are needed," Eggertson says.

For more information on the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program or other protective clothing and equipment safety information, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: *Bertha Eggertson*
427-2412

Cab charcoal filter use on the rise

More Alberta farmers are using basic and extra protective clothing and equipment when handling and using pesticides, and part of that extra protection is a charcoal filter in their tractor cab.

"While you're doing some pre-spring work on your equipment, check with your equipment dealer for a filter," suggests Bertha Eggertson, an Alberta Agriculture specialist whose areas of expertise includes protective clothing.

Eggertson notes in a recent survey of farmers who took part in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program, about 24 per cent had equipped their tractor cabs with charcoal filters. The filter helps reduce exposure to chemicals when the farmer is spraying. "It's

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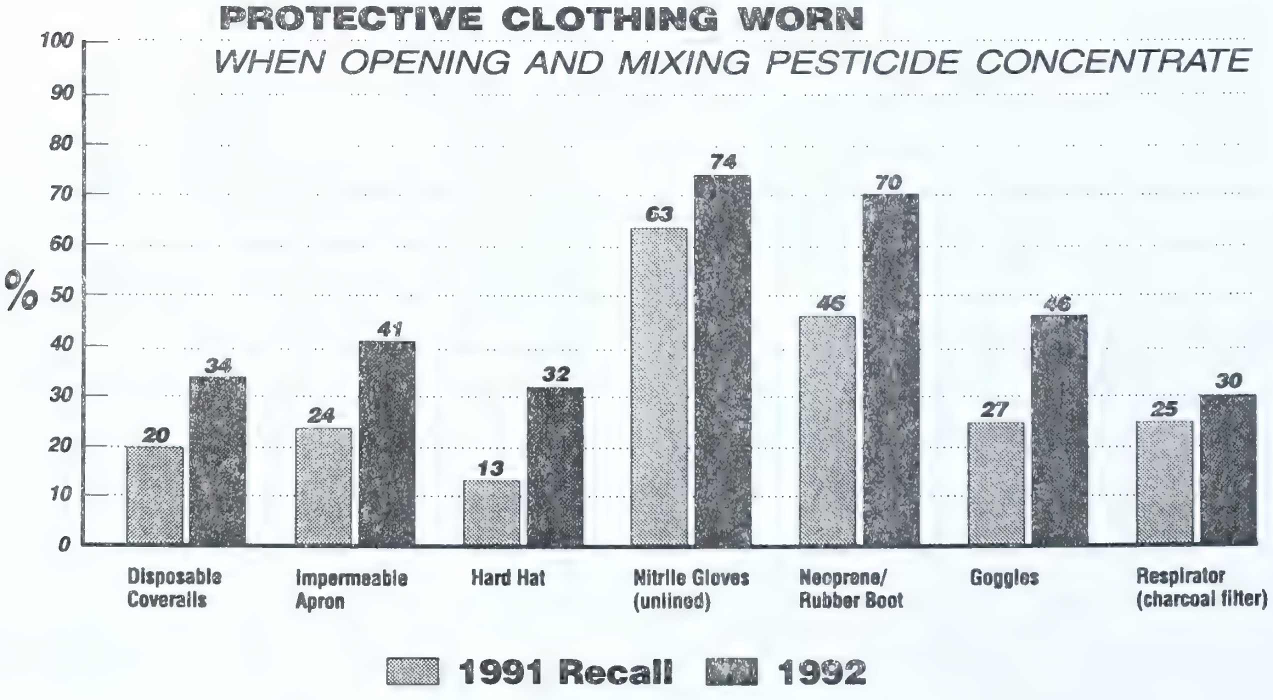

just another way to protect yourself," she adds.

"Charcoal filters should be used only when spraying and removed when the spraying season is finished to lengthen the life of the charcoal," notes Keith Price, another department specialist who helped design the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program.

How long a filter lasts depends on a number of factors such as the numbers of hours spraying, the particular pesticide that was used and the weather conditions.

There are also precautions in using a filter notes Eggertson. "Just as with disposable gloves and coveralls or a respirator filter, a cab filter has a limited lifespan. If you can smell a chemical odor in the cab, it's time to replace the filter just as you would with a respirator."

For more information on protective clothing and equipment, farm families can contact their local Alberta Agriculture district office. As well as pamphlets and videos on pesticide safety and protective clothing, district offices have information on available Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program courses.

Contact:	*Bertha Eggertson* *427-2412*	*Keith Price* *427-5341*

Groundwater exploration funded by CASEA

Groundwater and exploration mapping will be one project funded by the new Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (CASEA) Agreement.

"The project is targeted in Alberta regions where there are chronic shortages of water for agricultural purposes," says Bob Buchanan, an Alberta Agriculture regional engineering technologist in Barrhead. Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) are co-operating on this research project.

The target regions include the special areas in eastern Alberta, the Municipal District of Acadia in eastern Alberta, the County of Forty Mile in southern Alberta, the northeastern drought area and parts of the Peace region in northwestern Alberta.

There are three parts of the project. One is to test drill, then define and catalogue ground water areas. Technical support will be supplied to develop a computerized database to help target test drilling. The eventual goal is to provide recommendations on sustainable harvesting yields of the identified groundwater aquifers.

"We've already started and met with some success," notes Buchanan. A number of high producing groundwater sources have already been identified in Acadia Valley and the special areas. "Farmers in these areas are excited about the potential of these high producing groundwater sources," he adds.

This month test drilling is planned for the Grassland community east of Athabasca. Several other areas are currently being considered for test drilling later in the year.

CASEA's purpose is to help adopt effective resource management and environmentally sustainable agriculture practices. Through its resource monitoring program, CASEA funds are available for groundwater exploration and mapping.

Contact:	*Bob Buchanan* *674-8252*	*Walter Nemanishen, PFRA* *292-5640*

Lead change, don't let it lead you

Change is inevitable and the reality of the 1990s has added two more elements to the truism, that the pace of change is increasing and change itself is changing.

"Those dynamics are very evident in the agriculture industry," says Doug Barlund, a specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "Global changes, societal concerns, tremendous technological advances and even coping with the overflow of materials available in this 'information' era all are affecting how and what farmers do.

"Change also has two sides. Distress and out-of-control feelings on one end of spectrum, and growth and development opportunities on the other end."

One way Alberta Agriculture has helped farmers reach the growth end of the scale is through its annual farm management conference he notes. Originally named the "Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference", the conference evolved from looking at a variety of specific new technologies in the 1970s, to showing how all the resources available to farmers are part of managing a family business in the 1990s. Its new, shorter and changed name for 1993 was the "Managing Agriculture Conference", or MAC'93.

"Our basic goal has stayed very much the same through the 16 years. The conference provides a major opportunity for farm families to detach themselves from daily activities for a few days during the winter season to do some serious thinking and planning about where they would like to direct their businesses," says Barlund, the conference project leader for the last year.

While developing and improving farm business management skills has been emphasized during the conference's recent years, attitude is also a vital factor in applying those skills he adds. "Our speakers have reflected a range between theory and practice, and personal and business topics. Attitude is particularly important when it comes to changing circumstances and trying new methods.

"That's why to highlight the 1993 theme of 'a time for change', one of our feature speakers looked specifically at change."

The speaker was Allan Simmons, a motivational specialist from Ontario, who talked to conference participants about leadership for changing times. Those leadership qualities include, he says, knowing "where I'm going and why", always learning better ways, looking for solutions and accepting full responsibility for "myself and my actions".

Cont'd on page 4

"The total message Allan brought—of seizing the day and committing to action—is something we want farm managers to see and understand; that as an individual you can cope with change by adopting a leadership attitude of dealing with the things you can change and accepting those you can't. That positive attitude can even help you enjoy the turbulence of change, rather than be overwhelmed by it," Barlund says.

Change itself has four stages says Simmons, from oblivion through to motivation, or from "This can't be happening" to "I see some interesting and exciting new challenges and opportunities". The issue for most people is the speed of change. Simmons says how fast we change depends directly on how quickly we move through the four stages. Motivation, he also notes, is where the power lies.

Change has both the aspect of losing and gaining says Simmons. How you feel about it depends on your perspective. Simmons used an example of transition in the insect world to illustrate his point: "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the butterfly knows as a miracle".

Those ends and beginnings were evident in the conference itself adds Barlund. "The conference has changed. We knew it was time to make some significant changes to better meet our farm client needs. For example, MAC'93 moved from a retreat setting in the Rockies to the more cental location of Red Deer. That opened this very worthwhile opportunity to many more people because overall costs were cut. Some of the long-time participants missed the special atmosphere, but that was one of the trade-offs of change and making a good program better for more people." Among the other changes were the conference's timing, from early March to early February, and offering single day registration.

Barlund says a review of conference evaluations shows the farm participants were pleased with the changes and the "revitalizing effect conference topics, speakers and participants had on them". "People said they found ways of gaining a stronger feeling of control over their lives personally and in business at this conference, so as organizers we've achieved our goal, too."

Change will probably figure in MAC'94, too. "To plan MAC'94, we're reviewing what we did in 1993, listening to the feedback from participants and looking at the needs of farm families and their advisors to help adapt to change," says Barlund. "We'll also assess how the conference fits into a new emphasis on farm business management skills through the federal/provincial farm business management initiative."

Contact: Doug Barlund
556-4245

Hawaiian bees coming to Alberta

A bit of Hawaii is coming to Alberta—no, it isn't the balmy weather of early March—but queen bees.

Bee imports from the U.S. to Canada were banned in 1987. But, the ban will soon be lifted from the state of Hawaii says Alberta Agriculture's provincial apiculturist.

Since the 1987 ban, the Alberta Beekeepers' Association and Alberta Agriculture have worked to get Hawaii excluded from the general prohibition because of Hawaii's isolation and long standing restrictions on bee imports says Kenn Tuckey. That work has now paid off.

Tuckey recently spent two weeks in Hawaii working with and observing how that state's agricultural department conducted tests on colonies of honey bees on the big island of Hawaii. "The tests were being done and observed to meet the requirements of a recently completed protocol to permit queen bee exports from Hawaii to Canada," he says.

Specifically, the tests were for two parasitic mites to determine if they were in the Hawaiian bee population. Varroa and tracheal mites are very common on the U.S. mainland and are also found in some parts of Canada.

"Hawaii has tested for these mites before, but this is the most extensive survey they've done," notes Tuckey. "These mites have never been found in Hawaii and the tests were conducted to reinforce the belief that Hawaii is free of varroa and tracheal mites."

Tuckey says all the laboratory work was completed by early March and honeybee queens from Hawaii could be coming to Canada by mid-April.

"Travelling to Hawaii was a rare opportunity and privilege," he adds. "It was fascinating to watch beekeeping and conditions that vary greatly from those in Alberta."

For more information, contact Tuckey in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Kenn Tuckey
422-1789

Sponsors reaffirm commitment to farm safety

TransAlta Utilities and Nova Corporation are again joining forces with Alberta Agriculture to bring the farm safety message to the province's rural school students.

"These companies will repeat as sponsors of our annual 'Child's Guide to Farm Safety' and we're very happy to have them aboard again for 1993-94," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of the farm safety program.

"TransAlta has always had a commitment to safety," says Cherry Holland, a company public affairs consultant. "This program is an

Cont'd on page 5

excellent extension of our belief in safety and youth."

"This is a very effective program that brings the safety message home to the farm through thousands of farm children province-wide," says Earl Goodwin, NOVA community relations specialist. "NOVA is pleased to be able to support this program."

The guide has been produced by Alberta Agriculture since 1976 and can be used as a basis for a farm safety unit in elementary school classrooms. "It puts an emphasis on fun, learning activities. As well, it features children teaching children," says Kyeremanteng.

Farm safety issues are presented in the guide with assistance from winning entries in a province-wide student poster and essay contest. Submissions for the contest from the 1992-93 guide are due by June 30, 1993.

Kyeremanteng adds everyone associated with the guide is excited about the theme for 1993-94. "Students will take a Prairie pirate adventure and look for the most precious treasure on the farm. You'll have to wait for the guide and work to the last page to find out the answer."

For more information about the child's guide or other farm safety programs and materials, call the farm safety office in Edmonton at 427-2186.

Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186
Earl Goodwin
423-2683
Cherry Holland
427-2186

Choose your strawberry season

Selecting the proper type, or combination of types, can ensure you have ripe strawberries in your garden through the summer and into the fall says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Strawberries are popular with home gardeners because they have the ability to produce large amounts of fruit, and fresh-from-your-garden flavor is hard to beat," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks.

Barkley says there are three main types of strawberries — June-bearers, ever-bearers and day-neutrals. "By using one type or combining them, you can control when you'll have berries," she says.

June-bearers produce a single crop each year. This is usually for a three to four week period in July. Their first crop is harvested the year after they are planted. Common varieties are Kent, Glooscap and Bounty.

Ever-bearing strawberries produce two crops. "Usually that's once in the late June to early July period and then again in late August. Or, sometimes they produce lightly throughout the summer and fall," says Barkley. "An advantage compared to June-bearers is that when this type is planted early, you can probably harvest a small crop late the same year," she adds. Ogallala and Fort Laramie are common varieties.

Day-neutral varieties may produce in June and July, take a short rest, and then produce heavy crops until the first hard frost in the fall. Among the most common varieties are Tristar, Hecker and Fern.

A common question people have is how many plants they need. Barkley says 100 plants should provide a family of four with enough fruit for fresh eating plus preserving for winter-use.

"Once you decide how many plants you want, you'll need a site. If you're planning on starting a strawberry patch, choose a well-drained, sunny location. Ideally, the spot should also be protected from strong winds. The soil pH should be in the five to seven range," she says.

For the best weed control this site should be cultivated the year before you plant the strawberry plants she adds. Adding organic matter such as well-rotted manure or compost will aid in creating a loose, rich well-drained soil.

The most suitable time to plant strawberries is in the spring as soon as land can be worked in April or May. Cultivate the site and level it before actually planting. Fall planting isn't recommended, as it's seldom successful.

Roots should be kept moist while planting she notes. "You can do this by wrapping the plants in wet burlap and carrying them in a pail or basket."

When planting, the strawberry plant's crown mid-point should be level with the soil surface. "Covering the crown with soil causes the plant to either rot or fail to send out runners. But, if you set the plant in too shallow, the crown and roots can dry out. So, you need to strike a balance," she says.

After placing the plant, firm the soil around the roots, water well and then check the plant depth. Barkley says gardeners can apply a starter solution to the plants. She recommends a 10-30-10 solution.

"Strawberry plants do need care and attention," she says. Among those needs are keeping the patch weed-free by hoeing or pulling weeds. With newly set June-bearers, remove flower stalks to allow the plant to produce runners.

"You may also have to deal with birds that like succulent strawberries as much as you and your family do," Barkley adds. Ways to deter birds include frequently picking berries, noise makers, brightly colored flags or streamers hung above the crops or aluminum pie tins suspended on a stake.

Strawberries should be picked as soon as the fruit is red all over. "Flavor and quality won't improve, it fact they will deteriorate," she says.

During the season peak, picking is probably necessary every other day. Barkley's other picking tip is to snip the fruit off the plant behind the hull with your thumb. "This ensures the cap stays on the fruit and that will help maintain its quality," she says.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

North West Cattle Feeders annual meeting March 18

The North West Cattle Feeders Association will hold its annual general meeting March 18 at the Westlock Inn. The day-long agenda features not only the meeting, but several speakers. Alberta Agriculture's Don Milligan will discuss electronic identification. Anne Dunford of Canfax will do a market review and outlook. There will also be a six-part panel discussion. The topics include custom feeding from an investor perspective, the value of knowing calf performance in the feedlot, communication between feeder and feedlot, the role of a small feedlot and custom feeding versus owning cattle. The registration fee is $30. For more information or to pre-register, call Brenda Scheideman in Stony Plain at 963-5483.

College supplies "cowboy" experience

A European rage for the "cowboy" lifestyle may bring some spin-off benefits for an Alberta college. Lakeland College in Vermilion has designed an exclusive "Western Adventure" program during June and August for the European market. The college promoted the program at the Equitana Horse Show in Germany this month. The "adventure" is aimed at people who have some riding experience, but who want to learn western riding. The program also includes conversational English classes and a visit to a working ranch in Alberta's foothills. Plans are also in the works for a similar program aimed at the Japanese market. For more information, contact Lloyd Zoerb, equine extension programmer, in Vermilion at 853-8607.

Community building workshop March 24-25

Training community builders, not organizers, is the focus of a two-day limited enrolment workshop in Lethbridge March 24 and 25. The "how to succeed in community building" workshop will be led by Jeff Bercuvitz who has worked in 25 states and provinces training community development professionals, civic and religious leaders, educators and interested citizens in his innovative approach to community building. During the workshop Bercuvitz will share success stories and his six-point approach to community buildings with tools and tips. He also shows how building a positive spirit and common groups are prerequisites to doing any meaningful community, economic and agricultural development, or other significant community building. Bercuvitz has been in Alberta before. Last year he worked with the Vulcan County Rural Initiatives Group known as GROW (Generating Rural Opportunities Within) advisory group. For more information on the workshop or to register, contact Rae Hunter, an Alberta Agriculture program leadership consultant, in Edmonton at 427-2171.

North West Cattle Feeders feedlot tour starts March 31

The sixth annual North West Cattle Feeders Association feedlot tour will travel east starting on March 31. The tour from March 31 through April 3 will feature elk and buffalo farming, feedlots, cow/calf operations, the Poundmaker ethanol plant, equipment manufacturing and a visit to VIDO in Saskatoon. No telephone registrations will be accepted. The mail-in registration deadline is March 25. For more information, contact Brenda Scheideman in Stony Plain at 963-5483.

Cattle handling techniques on video

A new Alberta Agriculture video looks at cattle handling through understanding animal psychology and using that in designing a cattle handling facility. This understanding can make handling faster, safer and less labor intensive. The 19-minute video looks at cattle handling from the animal's point of view as well as teaching some cow psychology. Several facilities are also looked at for how well they work. The video, "Cattle Handling", is available for loan from all Alberta Agriculture district office video libraries. The video is also available for loan from the department's central film library in Edmonton. For loan information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Outlook seminars coming through March

Alberta farmers can learn more about marketing through six separate seminars coming to different locations around the province during March. The outlook seminars are supplied by KenAgra Management Services and are partially funded through the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative. Two of the seminars are in Edmonton. The first on March 23 is recommended for producers who don't have futures accounts. The second is more advanced and is recommended for

Cont'd on page 7

producers with futures accounts. That seminar is March 29. Other seminars are March 17 in Strathmore, March 22 in Lloydminster, March 25 in Fairview, March 26 in Grande Prairie and March 30 in Red Deer. Added livestock information is featured at the Lloydminster and first Edmonton seminars. The pre-registration fee is $100 (plus GST) with no additional charge for a spouse. The seminar should also be tax deductible for farmers. For more information, contact Cynthia Whitehead or Brenda Brindle at KenAgra in Edmonton at 468-4442.

Effective volunteer management seminar

A one-day seminar March 27 in Red Deer will teach effective volunteer management. The workshop will help volunteer organizers plan responsibilities starting with meeting the board and/or executive staff. It will also teach: what questions to ask to clarify your title and what the position does; the teamwork objective as the basis of a meaningful volunteer program; preparing for volunteers; recruiting volunteers; putting the right person with the right job; and, interviewing, appointing, training and recognizing volunteers. A maximum of 125 registrations will be accepted. The registration deadline is March 17. The registration fee, which includes lunch, is $12 per person. The seminar will be held at the Chalet on the Western Park grounds in Red Deer. The Westerner Exposition Association and Alberta Agriculture's rural development division are the seminar hosts. For more information, contact Shirley Pearson in Red Deer at 343-7800, or Rae Hunter in Edmonton at 427-2181.

Muttart Conservatory spring courses underway

Edmonton's Muttart Conservatory offers the public a wide variety of courses related to things horticultural. This spring's courses include: landscaping for wildlife (March 24); introduction to Bonsai (March 20 and April 3); growing lilies (March 23); a harvest of herbs (April 17); natural household cleaners and cosmetics ("clean green and body cream", April 14); and, African violets (April 21). For more information on these courses, contact Ross Proskow at 496-6951.

PAMI direct seeding manual available

Farmers interested in direct seeding can get a manual developed in part by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI). PAMI and the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA) produced the 80-plus page **Direct Seeding Manual**. It also has more than 100 color photos and diagrams. The publication can be a basic resource for farmers who use direct seeding. The authors have used the expertise of 25 specialists from Canada and the U.S. to compile information in six key areas: crop rotations, residue management, seeding, weed control, fertility and equipment. The manual encourages farmers to learn and try techniques discussed at the level they feel comfortable. The manual format is a three-ring binder that allows producers to add their own crop rotation and equipment records. For more information on the manual, contact PAMI toll-free at 1-800-567-PAMI (7264).

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 22, 1993

Project links provinces in farm management network

An agricultural student in New Brunswick wants to know more about management issues in raising buffalo, but instead of heading to a library puts out a call on a computer network and receives information from across Canada.

Canadian students, and more particularly others interested in farm business management information from farmers to government analysts, will soon be able to do just that.

By the end of April provinces from Ontario west are scheduled to be linked in a Farm Business Management Information Network (FBMInet), a national network of computer bulletin board systems. The rest of the provinces will be added as location and telephone line arrangements are completed.

Services like the scenario above will be just one of the ways the network can be used says Bruce Waldie, provincial computer applications specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Waldie and colleague David Thacker came up with the national network idea based on the success of an Alberta bulletin board they are responsible for. They received funding from the Canadian Farm Business Management Council to get a national network started. One of the council's mandates is to develop an effective and efficient communications strategy.

"Our proposal fit into several objectives for effective communication on a national level and for distributing information," says Waldie.

Currently three "nodes" in the system are being tested in Olds. The terminals represent Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Waldie has been travelling the nation, from Charlottetown to Vancouver, to show how the system can work.

Alberta Agriculture has operated the Compu-Farm bulletin board since 1984. It already provides many of the same services the national network will offer. "Our experience has shown that this isn't just an idea that sounds good on paper. It's something people can use, and do use, in a variety of ways," says Waldie.

"We did help a New Brunswick college instructor get information on feeding buffalo for a student. We put out the call on the ELECTRONIC BARNYARD that is limited just to southern Alberta. Within two weeks, the student had three good responses. Imagine what might have been possible with a national link," he says.

The network can be used five different ways says Waldie. One of the features of the network will be "perishable" information. This type of information is time critical and would be updated and replaced. It could include anything from market information to news releases and other announcements.

A second major service would be online provincial and national databases. Waldie says one example could be the Agriculture Software Directory, or on a regional basis Alberta's custom rates database.

"Public messaging" is another way to use the network. "This is an interactive feature of the system," says Waldie. "A user could post a public message in one province and have it automatically distributed across the network. For example, a farmer in Alberta could ask a question about NISA and receive replies from other farmers or extension staff across Canada."

The network can also be used to share computer files. Waldie's example is a Nova Scotia tax management professional who

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Project links provinces in farm management network 1

Small time investment reaps marketing rewards 2

The "hemes" the thing 2

Still pink—don't eat that hamburger 3

"Flu" season connection to food handling 4

Direct seeding to reseed pasture yields mixed results 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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develops a spreadsheet template and makes it available to other users on the network. "These shared files could be Work Perfect documents, text files, spreadsheets, databases and others," says Waldie.

A final feature is private electronic mail to exchange information directly with an intended recipient. "This would most likely be used by council members or extension workers who need to regularly exchange information with their counterparts across Canada."

For more information on FBMInet project, contact Waldie or Thacker in Olds at 556-4243.

Contact: Bruce Waldie 556-4243
David Thacker 556-4247

Small time investment reaps marketing rewards

Between a half hour and an hour a week is all the time you need to spend to keep informed and do a quality job marketing says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"How much time will I have to spend following the markets?" is the most common question beginning marketers ask says Doug Walkey, a market economist based in Red Deer.

"Usually it's asked in a secluded corner of a meeting hall after a course or privately over the telephone. The secrecy is probably because people are afraid of becoming one of 'them', a stereotyped market enthusiast who totally lives, breathes and talks the markets," Walkey says. "But, you don't have to go overboard. The most important thing is to watch trends yourself. That doesn't have to mean you abandon your crops and livestock to be a market watcher.

"You can put in as much or as little energy as you choose. The important thing is to take advantage of what the market has to offer and know that it doesn't have to take up all of your time."

Walkey says the key is using experts and setting a firm, undisturbed half-hour each week to devote to looking at the markets. He suggests a six step approach to make this work.

"The first step is knowing your own costs of production. This is so you know when a market price is profitable to you. Your district agriculturist or accountant could help you with this," he says.

Second, Walkey advises subscribing to two or three sources of market information. "You don't need to look much further than our department's **Monthly** as one source. If possible, also get opinions from the industry as well as government. A mix of opinions is best."

Marketing also means knowing the buyers in your area. Make a list with phone numbers. Walkey suggests 15 to 25 names with a mix of buyers, analysts, brokers and government specialists to cover a broad range and mix of perspectives.

Sampling and testing your own product is also part of the success formula. "You have to know what you are selling, so an impartial grade is very important," notes Walkey. The Canadian Grain Commission is a good choice for grains. For livestock, Walkey suggests, requesting opinions from "people you respect".

His final tips are to buy a pad of graph paper and get a tape recorder and telephone microphone. The graph paper is to plot trends.

"Plotting one price per week will give you a smoothed price line that will closely match the trend," says Walkey. "If Thursday is the day you've chosen for your own market day, plot the Thursday close of the Winnipeg canola futures or Western barley futures. For cattle, use Canfax or the Alberta Cattle Commission's information line."

The purpose of charting is to give a clear, concise picture of what's happening in the market. "Doing it with your own hands makes the picture all the more memorable. You could buy charts from a service, but a chart you understand is worth 20 charts sitting unread in your mail," Walkey says.

Part of your marketing time should also be spent on the telephone getting in touch with your own bank of experts. "These people will bring you up to date on the market pressures that an insider or professional analyst has the time to study," he says.

This is where the tape recorder comes in he adds. "When you talk to industry analysts, or listen to price information lines, they will invariably share a great deal of information faster than you can write it down. Just tape record the call and you can go through it slower and think about it later."

Contact: Doug Walkey
340-7612

The "hemes" the thing

A serving of bran flakes contains more iron than a serving of sirloin steak, but your body absorbs twice as much iron from the steak.

The reason is that all iron isn't created equal. The iron in the bran flakes—and in all plant sources—is non-heme iron. Your body only absorbs about three to eight per cent of non-heme iron.

Heme iron, on the other hand, is found in animal sources including red meat, poultry, fish and organ meats such as liver. Your body more readily absorbs heme iron, at a rate of about 23 per cent of the iron consumed.

"This heme iron is best absorbed and used in the body, so is very important to include in your diet, particularly if you are female," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture provincial foods and nutrition specialist. "The difference between these two types of iron make it a nutrient that demands special attention."

Iron is part of hemoglobin in red blood cells. These cells carry oxygen through your body. Oxygen helps release energy from the food you eat so you can grow, move and breathe.

Iron deficiency is one of the most common nutritional deficiencies in Canada. Low iron levels can cause low energy and fatigue. People may feel tired, irritable and have limited attention. Low

Cont'd on page 3

iron levels in children can result in lower learning abilities and depressed growth. Too little iron can eventually lead to iron deficiency anemia.

Women, in particular, are at risk of iron deficiencies. One reason is because women require more iron each day, about 13 mg to 10 mg for men (ages 13 through 49 years.) More iron is needed when pregnant or to replace iron lost through menstruation or childbirth.

"Another way women put themselves at risk is by watching their weight. Women and teenage girls following lower calorie diets often fall short of their iron needs," adds Whitmore."As well, people who limit or avoid red meat may also not be getting enough iron."

Children and athletes also can be iron deficient. Children need iron to help build new body tissue, athletes to achieve peak performance.

Whitmore offers several tips to choose foods that increase iron intake. One way is to choose foods with higher iron contents from each food group. "As strange as it may sound, iron is usually found in more colorful foods. For example, red meats, dark green vegetables and brown whole grains. This may mean choosing a spinach salad over a lettuce salad," she says.

Iron enhancers help the body absorb more non-heme iron. These enhancers include heme iron sources such as meat, poultry and fish. "Twice as much vegetable iron will be absorbed if eaten with meat at the same meal. Try combining poorly absorbed vegetable sources with rich animal iron sources. There are all sorts of way to do this such as chili with beans and meat, lentil soup with turkey or broccoli and beef in a stir-fry," notes Whitmore.

As well, foods rich in vitamin C will also help the body absorb more non-heme iron. The 50 to 100 mg of vitamin C found in a 175 mL to 250 mL glass of citrus or vitaminized juice or a stick of broccoli will also increase absorption of non-heme iron by two to three times.

There are also iron inhibitors. Oxalates in spinach and phytates in whole grains restrict iron absorption. Other common foods that contain inhibitors are tea, coffee, bran and legumes. Coffee, tea and red wine reduce iron absorption by 40 to 80 per cent. It's suggested they be avoided during meals. Instead, drink them one hour before and two hours after a meal.

"A high fibre intake generally can act as an iron inhibitor, so to 'save the iron' eat foods with heme iron and or vitamin C at the same time," suggests Whitmore.

As well, iron-rich foods are recommended over iron supplements to meet the body's iron requirements.

During Nutrition Month (March 1-31), call a special toll-free number 1-800-563-4444 with questions about women and nutrition. An information brochure, "Iron essential for good health", is available through the Beef Information Centre. For more information on healthy eating, contact an Alberta Agriculture district home economist or local public health department.

Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

Still pink—don't eat that hamburger

If you're concerned about the perils of "hamburger disease", don't eat a hamburger that's still pink inside says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The thing each of us should remember is that a safe hamburger shouldn't have even a touch of pink, " says Aileen Whitmore provincial foods and nutrition specialist.

"That means a hamburger at home or one in a restaurant," she adds. "If a server asks how you want your hamburger cooked, the only right answer is well done as thorough cooking will destroy any harmful bacteria."

Hamburger does top the list as a possible source of the potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria that causes a gastrointestinal illness commonly known as "hamburger disease" or "barbeque syndrome". Ground meat is more likely to be contaminated with this bacteria than other meats because during grinding the bacteria can spread through the uncooked meat.

"But thorough cooking will destroy the *E. coli* bacteria," emphasizes Whitmore, "That means the centre of a hamburger patty is brown and juices are clear."

Whitmore adds the "pink test" doesn't apply to steak. "Because the bacteria is usually on the meat's surface, the pink centre of a rare or medium steak shouldn't be dangerous as long as the outside of the steak has been cooked."

E. coli can be found in all types of meat—usually on the surface of raw meats—and raw milk. "That's the reason meat is cooked and milk is pasteurized, to eliminate potentially harmful bacteria," notes Whitmore.

The *E. coli* bacteria produces a poison, or toxin, that damages the intestine's lining and results in hemorrhagic colitis. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, bloody diarrhea and a mild fever two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Anyone with those symptoms should contact their physician.

Most people recover from the illness within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the *E. coli* toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This kidney failure is especially dangerous to young children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

Whitmore says how people handle food could cause this and other types of food poisoning at any time. "Preventing food poisoning requires safe food handling and preparation all the time," she stresses.

Safety starts with choosing fresh products at the grocery store. In the case of meats, refrigerate or freeze meat as soon as possible after purchase. Frozen meat should be thawed in the refrigerator or microwave, but not at room temperature. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator.

"Raw meats shouldn't be allowed to sit at room temperature, but just as important, once meat is cooked, serve it quickly because

Cont'd on page 4

the environment is right for bacterial growth when the food's temperature goes below 60°C. Keep your hot food hot and put leftovers in the refrigerator promptly," she says.

Cleanliness is another important factor in preventing food poisoning. "One of the biggest mistakes people make, especially when barbecuing, is putting cooked meat on the same plate the raw food was on. You kill the bacteria by cooking, then turn around and recontaminate the food with raw juices. Always put cooked food on a clean plate," she advises.

Utensils, cutting boards and counters must be washed with hot soapy water and sterilized to prevent bacteria from contacting other foods. To sterilize, add a little bleach to the water. As well, cooks need to wash their hands well after handling raw meat.

For more information on safe food handling and preparation, contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist, or Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-2412.

Contact: *Aileen Whitmore*
427-2412

"Flu" season connection to food handling

You think you've just had a bout with the flu complete with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. But, these symptoms are also common signs of food poisoning.

"Often when it's suggested that the person might have food poisoning they say, 'But how can it be food poisoning? I haven't been to a restaurant in days!'," says Lucy Beck, a health inspector with the Wetoka Health Unit.

The statistics bear out people's misconceptions about what's caused their illness. One estimate is that for every reported case of food poisoning, 10 to 100 cases go unreported.

Food borne illnesses occur every day Beck adds. "While food poisoning can come from an approved licensed premise, it can also happen in your kitchen. It's really our own responsibility to ensure foods are safe after we buy them.

"Some simple shopping tips may help extend the product's shelf life in your home," she adds.

First, when shopping be aware of expiry dates. Occasionally a package can be missed in stock rotations. Also while shopping, reduce the time perishable foods are exposed to warm temperatures. "Make groceries your last errand before going home to avoid extra time in a warm car," Beck suggests. "Shop for meat, milk and other perishable items last and store them immediately when you get home.

"Temperature abuse is real culprit. It can translate into food poisoning," she warns. "Keep it hot, keep it cold or don't keep it is the simple rule to follow."

For example, foods shouldn't sit at room temperature for more than two hours in total. "If dairy products, sauces, meat, eggs, poultry, seafood, cooked pastas, grains and rice are kept in the "dangerous temperature zone" [between 4°C (40°F) and 60°C (140°F)] for more than two hours, then throw them away," she advises.

Longer than two hours may allow bacteria to grow to harmful levels or produce toxins. Both can cause serious illness.

Temperature abuse may cause ice crystal formation and changed texture in frozen foods. Refreezing foods will also result in texture changes and reduce shelf life.

Plan to thaw foods well in advance. Foods should be thawed in the refrigerator. Ice water baths are another method. Foods can also be thawed in the microwave.

Cooking foods to the centre should kill most harmful bacteria. This is particularly true for meats. Preparing foods just before eating whenever possible also helps to reduce temperature abuse.

Special precautions are especially necessary with raw foods she says. Her advice is to store all cooked and ready to eat foods above and away from raw food. As well, after handling raw foods wash all surfaces including cutting boards, utensils and sinks with hot soapy water.

"Wash your hands with hot soapy water before and after handling any food item," she adds.

Food poisoning illnesses are costly to society. "It's expensive in terms of work days missed and in costs to the health care system," notes Beck.

Contact: *Lucy Beck*
352-3337

Direct seeding to reseed pasture yields mixed results

Direct seeding equipment gives producers another option when it comes time to reseed pastures, and a recently completed Farming For the Future project examined how well that technology works in Alberta's eastern slopes.

The two-year on-farm research project was co-ordinated by Allen Toly, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in High River. "We found direct seeding grasses into sod on native and seeded pastures can work in certain circumstances," he says of the project undertaken southwest of Turner Valley.

"We used direct seeding with a single disc no-till drill in combination with a Roundup application. The result was an average stand of seeded grasses on native pasture and no establishment of grasses on an old seeded brome grass field.

"However, at a third site—an old stand of Russian wild rye and smooth brome that was becoming unproductive—this method worked very well," he says.

Toly also notes Roundup, a non-selective herbicide, can provide good control of grasses on native pastures. "But, the recovery ability of the native species appear to make it a practical alternative only on very sandy and fragile areas."

Cont'd on page 5

The availability of no-till drills that can seed directly into fragile or unproductive cropped or pasture lands, plus the reduced cost of Roundup were the catalyst for trying this particular on-farm demonstration. "Both these factors made this method of reseeding a more practical option," says Toly. "As well, direct sod seeding hadn't been tried in the Municipal District of Foothills before this demonstration project."

Two of the project sites were on Merv Page's Tongue Creek Ranch. One 15-acre field was part of a 40-acre, old brome grass pasture. The other site was a five acre field of native grass. Both were sprayed with Roundup in mid-June, 1991. By early July good top growth control was evident on all grasses, weeds, forbs and shrubs on the fields, so both were seeded with the no-till drill. The seed mixture was 16 lb./ac. oats, and six lb./ac. each of crested wheat grass and meadow brome grass.

Toly notes the single disc drill penetrated the sod easily. "But, because the sod hadn't decomposed where the seed furrow was, an opening remained as the small covering and packing wheel didn't have adequate soil to fill the furrow. This allowed drying, excess sunlight and poor germinating conditions."

By the end of that month, the native grass field showed average oat growth and very few seeded grass plants. "A longer delay between the Roundup application and seeding would have resulted in a better seeded grass stand," he says.

The brome grass field had a thin oat stand and only a few seeded grass plants, mostly the meadow brome. "By the next year this field had a heavy growth of native bluegrass species, some Canada thistle and no seeded grasses were visible," he notes. "The recovery rate of the native bluegrass, an invader species on native range, didn't allow the seeded grasses to establish themselves."

Ten miles east of Tongue Creek Ranch, the same reseeding method was used on an old 100-acre stand of Russian wild rye and smooth brome. The field was quite rocky, and the co-operating producers, Peter and Richard Wambeke, didn't want to break up the field. The stand was allowed to grow eight inches high, then was sprayed with Roundup.

"As luck would have it, they couldn't get the municipality's no-till drill until mid-July," says Toly. "This gave the sod two months to decompose. So when the field was seeded, the seed run opening was covered with soil by the covering wheel and the result was excellent germination. Here the method worked perfectly, and certainly was the least-cost reseeding option."

For more information on this on-farm research project, contact Toly in High River at 652-8302.

Contact: Allen Toly
652-8302

Agri-News briefs

Water chemistry seminar

The complete picture of water chemistry from ground to tap is offered in a three-day seminar April 28 through 30 in Edmonton. Among the seminar topics are developing water quality, organic compounds in water, collecting representative samples, water chemistry and contamination concepts, getting the most from chemical results and point of use water treatment. Two of the feature speakers are Ross McCurdy, a Dalhousie University professor and president of Fenwick Labs, and Robert Audette, a clinical assistant professor in lab medicine and pathology at the University of Alberta. Audette also heads the Trace Elements Environmental Toxicology Lab. This lab will be toured on April 29 as part of the conference. Alberta health units will be serviced by the lab starting April 1, 1993. A course agenda will be sent to all enquiries. The seminar is co-sponsored by Alberta Health, the University of Alberta Hospitals and the Alberta branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). For more information, contact Greg Thibault in Wetaskiwin at 352-337 or Peer Mikkelsen in High River at 652-3297 Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Women's Farm Equipment Program comes to Olds College

Farming holds few barriers for women today, and Olds College is helping bring down one of them. The college's extension services is offering a Women's Farm Equipment Operation Program. It provides useful information on basic farming equipment operation and maintenance skills. The four-week course covers tractors, seeders, swathers and combines. The course concentrates just as much on practical instruction as it does theory. One of the most useful skills student learn in the 80-hour program is trouble-shooting. This is understanding why a particular piece of equipment has stopped working and learning how to prevent breakdowns—a crucial skill during hectic seeding and harvest seasons. A professional mechanic will also teach communication skills useful for understanding "shop talk". This allows course participants to talk the same language as the mechanic or partsman. The program also includes safety precautions and basic first-aid skills. The comprehensive program is funded in part by Employment and Immigration Canada. For more information on the course, contact Ed Shaw at Olds College at 556-8236.

A Journey to Excellence on video

New to Alberta Agriculture's central film library is a two-part video from renowned trainer Mike Robson. Robson discusses fault-free customer service as the key to excellence through quality and the commitment needed by top management to make it work. For loan information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

4-H scholarship application deadline reminder

Students interested in applying for Alberta 4-H scholarships have two deadlines. Most scholarships have a July 15 deadline for receipt of applications at the 4-H branch in Edmonton. One of the scholarships has an earlier deadline. The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship has a May 15 deadline. Application forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district home economists. For more information, contact Lori McRae or Arron Madson at the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Limited space in Calgary livestock seminar

Thirty people will learn more about livestock evaluation at a seminar in Calgary June 6 to 9. Total registration at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede seminar is limited to 30 people. Anyone interested in the seminar is encouraged to call Charlene Dittmer in Calgary at 261-0313 as soon as possible. Chris Skaggs of Texas A&M University will be the instructor. He'll discuss the live steer to carcass relationship and evaluation, a comparison of grading systems, oral reasons in judging, EPDs and selection criteria for replacement heifers and bulls. The seminar fee is $214 per person (GST included). The seminar is being held in conjunction with the Stampede's livestock judging committee and the Canadian Charolais Association. For more information, call Charlene at 261-0313 in Calgary.

Herbicide resistance answer booklet available

Prairie farmers concerned about herbicide resistance may be interested in a free publication from Hoechst Canada. The 16-page booklet titled "Herbicide Resistance: Answers and Options" is designed to help farmers assess their own management situation and take steps to minimize their risk. The booklet is available through company representatives, or by calling the company's toll-free hotline at 1-800-667-5959. For more information, contact Steve Meister in Regina at (306)721-4551.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

March 29, 1993

Spring into gopher control

Don't wait for warm weather and the ground to thaw to start ground squirrel control says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Now is the time for ground squirrel control," says John Bourne, northeast regional supervisor of problem wildlife. Ground squirrels are commonly called gophers on the Canadian Prairies.

"By removing the adults as they come out of hibernation, you can effectively reduce the ground squirrel population in your fields. As well, getting bait out early before green-up when baiting is much more likely to work, rather than having to compete with new vegetation growth," he adds.

Bourne notes neighboring ground squirrels will generally not move into a "cleaned out" area until young animals begin migrating during later summer or early fall. Fall treatment will remove any invaders he says.

"You should continue to treat your fields in the spring and fall until signs of ground squirrels are absent, or the field is worked," he adds.

The best ground squirrel control is an early application of an approved and properly prepared food bait. Ideally the rodenticides should go out when adults start to get active, usually in March. "For every female removed, six to eight less animals will have to be dealt with and removed later in the year," notes Bourne.

Anticoagulants are the safest product to use. The anticoagulant causes death by painless internal bleeding. "This type of control is safe, effective, humane and relatively inexpensive," says Bourne. Liquid Lightning and Liquid Rozol are two types of this product.

For ground squirrel control, the liquid anticoagulant concentrate is mixed with a fresh, clean, hulless cereal grain. "Follow all directions and restrictions on the container's label," advises Bourne.

Anticoagulants are also registered for use in residential areas of towns and cities he adds.

To be effective, ground squirrels must eat treated bait for at least two days in a row. There are two methods of baiting.

To hand bait, place about 5mL (one teaspoon) of bait in a burrow entrance. Check daily and replenish as needed. After 48 hours, all holes should be rebaited if the bait is gone. A third baiting might be necessary for complete control. Remove all unused bait.

Another system is to place bait in protected stations throughout an area infested with ground squirrels. Check stations daily to maintain an uninterrupted supply of bait for up to three weeks, or until feeding stops.

Bait stations can be made from five gallon cans or pails. Cut two to three entrances in the side near the bottom. Holes should be about three-quarters of an inch. Stations can also be made from old tires.

"Secure the bait stations to the ground and cover so they can't be upset by domestic animals, particularly dogs," says Bourne.

Bourne notes concentrated strychnine poison for rodent control has been de-registered. "Current stocks of liquid two per cent strychnine concentrate are legal to use, but once these are gone, that's it. Only manufactured pre-mix strychnine products are still registered for rodent control."

Another product registered for ground squirrel control is zinc phosphide (ZnP) two per cent in pellet form. "Poisons such as

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Spring into gopher control 1

Farm tax tips for FSAM I, FSAM II and NISA 2

Many factors in handling heavy straw residues 2

How-tos in handling an unharvested crop 3

DHE 50th reunion on track 4

Easy rewards in growing raspberries 4

One room school dominates ag ambassador fair 5

Outstanding ag ambassador award established 5

Summer ag education institute deadline April 30 6

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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strychnine and ZnP generally only require a single feed," says Bourne, "but, they also have common problems of taste with ground squirrels. As well, there's the potential hazard to other wildlife, pets and livestock."

Bourne also reminds farmers to handle poisons with care. "Whether handling an anticoagulant or strychnine, take care to avoid any accidental poisoning of livestock, pets or wildlife. Place bait both properly and carefully, and always follow the label's instructions."

Bait should be put in the burrow to reduce the chance another animal will eat the bait. Bait stations should be secured to they can't be tipped over or broken into by other animals.

Trapping, shooting, drowning and other rodent control methods have limited application he adds.

For more information, contact your district Alberta Agriculture office.

Contact: John Bourne
853-8225

Farm tax tips for FSAM I, FSAM II and NISA

While the names sound the same, two federal programs are distinctly different and have different tax implications for farmers completing their 1992 income tax returns.

There are two Farm Support Adjustment Measures (FSAM) programs—FSAM I and FSAM II. "FSAM I is a $640 million program announced in April 1991 to encourage farmers to participate in the then newly established safety net programs of the Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP) and Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA)," explains Doug Duff, a tax specialist with the farm business management branch.

FSAM II was announced six months later and isn't directly related to NISA, GRIP or FSAM I. FSAM II payments were targeted to specific commodities. "Revenue Canada determined that for income tax purposes FSAM payments—in other words the income from the FSAM programs—will be treated in different ways," Duff adds.

Through FSAM I farmers received lower GRIP premium rates. As well, farmers could receive the FSAM I benefit directly or use it towards their producer contribution to NISA. In either case, FSAM I benefits used for NISA in both 1990 and 1991 were calculated based on a producer's net eligible sales.

"For income tax purposes, FSAM I payments through NISA are treated as income from property, rather than farming income," says Duff. Property income is recorded on line 130, page one of personal tax returns. "If you elected to use FSAM I to net out your NISA deposit, rather than get the cash, these funds are taxable and also should be reported as income from property."

Duff adds that farmers' deposits to NISA aren't tax deductible now and aren't taxable when taken out of the account. However, government contributions and accrued interest on funds in an individual NISA account are taxable when they are withdrawn.

"Again, these are income from property rather than farming income," says Duff. "As a result these amounts can't be used as a basis for calculating Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contributions, or farming income or losses."

When received by a corporation or co-operative, NISA income is eligible for the small business tax deduction.

FSAM II payments were for specific commodities. A majority of the $800 million program went to grain and oilseed producers. Those farmers received $700 million in two acreage payments made in January and April of 1992.

"Because these FSAM II payments were targeted to specific commodities, they are considered farming income for income tax purposes," says Duff. FSAM II income is used to determine farming income or losses and is eligible for earned income when calculating RRSP or Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions.

"FSAM II income should be reported on the Statement of Farming Income and Expenses," he says. As well, this means any FSAM II payment a farmer received can be used in determining 1992 net eligible sales for NISA accounts he adds.

For more information on where FSAM programs and NISA fit into your tax picture, contact Bev Pearson or Janette McDonald-Adam in Edmonton at 422-5672, or Duff at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

Contact: Bev Pearson
422-5672
Douglas Duff
556-4240

Janette McDonald-Adam
422-5672

Many factors in handling heavy straw residues

Many Alberta farmers face the challenge of dealing with heavy straw residues before they can start seeding and other spring work say two Alberta Agriculture farm machinery specialists.

"Long straw from unharvested crops or unchopped straw from crops that were harvested are a problem for 1993 spring field operations," says Marshall Eliason farm machinery engineer.

"The crop and weather patterns of 1992 left residue cover on farm fields in a variety of conditions," adds Murray Green provincial farm machinery specialist. "Most straw cover on fields in central and southern Alberta is greater than usual. As well, many fields have lodged or snow flattened crops that weren't harvested last fall."

Both Eliason and Green say farmers have been asking questions about how to cope with these conditions. "There's no doubt the residue will cause interference in tillage and planting equipment," says Green. "And there are a number of approaches to dealing with the straw."

"There's no best solution," adds Eliason. "Good residue

Cont'd on page 3

management practices will to some extent depend on the type and condition of last year's crop and or its residue. It also depends on your location and your type of cropping rotation."

Both list a number of key issues to consider. Among the those factors are the economic value of the crop and or residue; 1993 field cropping plans; volunteer growth and disease carryover from residue; erosion risk; timeliness of spring field operations; reasonable production costs for 1993; and, availability of equipment.

"What you need to do is get the desired field finish that preserves moisture, provides for seedling emergence and handles spraying and harvesting traffic," says Green.

Moisture is a major issue he adds. "Ensure soil moisture will be preserved in the seedbed. Consider that this spring might be dry." As well, planting equipment must be able to place the seed into the desired seed bed. "You can't compromise the criteria for a good seed bed," he emphasizes.

Options for handling straw also depend on whether the crop is still standing, is in windrows, or if it's simply a heavy straw cover. Those options include baling, mowing, shredding and harrowing. [**Editor's note: See additional story on handling options**.]

Both specialists note that burning isn't a recommended alternative. "Generally farmers haven't burned straw since the value of surface residue has become apparent in recent years," says Green.

"Burning isn't a good practice, but may be warranted in extreme conditions. While burning will solve the problem of planting through heavy residue, it may leave the soil surface vulnerable to erosion. Some people believe burning is quick and economical, and prefer it to aggressive tillage when trying to conserve soil moisture," adds Eliason.

He advises to: take care to ensure proper fire safety and control measures; get appropriate permits and approvals from the local municipality and/or fire department before burning; and, have up to date insurance and liability coverage.

Contact: Marshall Eliason 427-2181

Murray Green 948-8525

How-tos in handling the unharvested crop

Before seeding their 1993 crop, many Alberta farmers first have to deal with last year's crop that's still in their fields.

"The 1992 crop and unusual fall weather have created some problems for farmers before they can get to their spring work this year," says Marshall Eliason, Alberta Agriculture farm machinery engineer.

"Many areas were hit by early frost and snows that either made harvesting difficult or prevented them from finishing. Those farmers have to finish with last year's crop before they can get on to this year's. Other farmers have another difficulty, how to deal with a greater than normal straw cover," adds Murray Green, provincial farm machinery specialist based in Airdrie.

Unharvested crops may still be standing or may be in windrows. "Before you decide what to do, you need to evaluate whether the crop is worth harvesting," says Eliason. "If it is, thresh it as you would in the fall."

In either case, if the crop isn't worth harvesting he says a basic option is to bale it and use for feeding or bedding livestock.

This doesn't leave a chaff row and reduces all the loose material. It's an ideal option for farmers who use direct seeding adds Green.

If a standing crop isn't worth cutting, chop it and spread the residue with a rotary or flail cutter. "Several manufacturers and dealers have shredders and cutters available for purchase or lease," he notes.

"Regardless of how heavy the previous crop was, residue won't be a problem if it's mowed or shredded," adds Green. He suggests using a rotary mower. "They are rugged enough to work close to the ground, even in stones."

With an already cut crop, the windrow can be cut, chopped and spread with a forage harvester. "Adjust the discharge spout to spread the residue evenly over the field," he suggests. "You can do this effectively by adjusting the discharge spout to release the material sideways or at an angle to the direction you are travelling."

If residue cutting and or spreading equipment isn't available, a series of tillage passes will incorporate standing residue or windrows. A chisel plow or a disc implement will work depending on the straw length.

A tandem or offset disc will bury about 50 per cent of the residue with each pass. "Several passes with a disc will bury most of the residue but will leave the soil dry and erosion prone," he says.

Eliason also notes how well a tandem disc performs in windrows depends on soil and residue moisture conditions. "If the soil is dry and firm or if the windrows are damp, disc penetration can be a problem—especially if you're trying to incorporate residue along the windrows."

However, if a standing or cut crop is light—particularly a canola crop—a series of harrow operations may be enough to breakup and distribute either the residue or the windrows. "You may only need to do it once or twice, and the harrowing may also loosen the soil surface just enough to help slow any moisture loss," he notes.

When dealing with a heavy straw cover, farmers are most concerned about possible plugging problems in their seeding equipment. "You can improve the distribution of straw and tilled stubble by harrowing," says Green. "But a single pass of a chisel plow will leave an unsuitable condition for most planters. Loosened stubble will plug a seeder set at a depth equal to or shallower than the first tillage. He recommends caution though in doing extra tillage operations, especially if spring weather is dry, hot and windy. "A too dry seed bed means poor emergence and

Cont'd on page 4

may mean poor grain quality from uneven crop maturity."

A tandem disc incorporates straw the deepest and most evenly. Green says if a chisel plow is used, install an aggressive sweep such as the McKay Penetrator. "Each tillage pass must be followed by harrows and packers to minimize moisture loss," he adds.

"If pulling your seeding equipment through straw where plugging problems do occur is unavoidable, know that the problem will lessen during the day as the straw dries. Try another harrow pass before spending all day doing circles in the field," he suggests.

Both note burning residues isn't recommended. While burning is quick, it removes all the residue and leaves the soil prone to erosion.

Contact:	*Marshall Eliason*	*Murray Green*
	427-2181	*948-8525*

DHE 50th reunion celebration on track

Former and current Alberta Agriculture district home economists (DHEs) plus their families and colleagues will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the province's first DHE for two days in May.

Stettler is the location of the reunion weekend May 21 and 22. Stettler was chosen because the first DHE, Esther Williams, was located there. Participants will start off the "reunion" celebrations by steaming into the past with a Alberta Prairie Steam Tours train ride and dinner on May 21.

"We're hoping to have at least 150 people signed up by April 5 to guarantee the train ride from Stettler to Big Valley and the dinner in Big Valley on Friday evening," says Joyce Lencucha, Alberta Agriculture regional home economist and a member of the reunion committee. April 5 is the early bird registration deadline.

The second day includes an Alberta Made pancake breakfast at the Stettler Provincial Building followed by visiting and viewing displays in both the current district office and the Old Court House—currently the Stettler Museum—where Williams had her office.

A celebration luncheon will conclude the formal activities. Among the guests will be past and present staff, farm business leaders and government officials.

"We'll also be launching a history book that commemorates this 50th anniversary," she says. The book is titled Families, Farms and Home Economists 50 Years of Partnership.

Reunion brochures have been sent out to past and current staff. "We're hoping we've reached everyone, but if not, information is available by contacting district offices." Brochures and other information are also available from Kay Dean in Stettler at 742-7500 and Marian Williams in Camrose at 679-1210.

The general registration deadline is May 10.

Contact:	*Kay Dean*	*Marian Williams*
	742-7500	*679-1210*

Easy rewards in growing raspberries

Raspberries are one of the easiest and most rewarding fruits to grow in your home garden says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"They produce a generous crop within the second year of planting," notes Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "And, raspberries can grow anywhere."

"A row eight metres long will supply enough fruit for eating fresh raspberries, preserving fruit and making jam for a family of four," she adds. While raspberries will grow most anywhere, a sandy loam soil with high organic matter is best. Wind protection is also important as wind dehydrates the plants and soil as well as breaking off canes at the crown.

"Good soil preparation is essential for this long-term crop," she says. "Two musts are summerfallowing the planting site and adding organic matter—peat moss, compost or well rotted manure—the season before you plant."

Summerfallowing helps control persistent weeds and helps blend the organic matter into the soil. The organic matter improves drainage or the water holding capacity of the soil.

"Start your raspberry patch with food quality, certified, disease-free plants," she advises. "Also, plant as early as possible in the spring." Recommended varieties include Boyne, Festival and Killarney. Honeyqueen is a yellow fruit variety.

Set rows three to four metres apart. Plant the plants between 70 and 100 cm apart in the rows. While planting, keep roots moist as rootlets can dry out quickly. Set the plants slightly deeper than their original planting depth at the nursery. Water-in the plants as soon as possible. Cut canes back to a height of 13 to 15 cm to encourage good root establishment.

Raspberry plants need between 2.5 and 3.5 cm of water each week from the time they blossom until the end of harvest. "This will ensure a good quality fruit yield," says Barley. "The amount of water your raspberries will need depends on the soil type and weather conditions. The best indicator of soil moisture is grabbing a handful of soil and feeling it."

Fruit can be harvested when berries easily separate from their receptacle. Fruit should be well-colored, but firm. Remove berries carefully from the plants and place in baskets.

Barkley has several picking tips. "You should pick raspberries three to four times a week. Another tip is to use small containers, as you can crush the fruit on the bottom with a large container. Don't pick during the heat of the day and take the berries from the patch as soon as possible."

Red raspberries have a perennial root system, but bear fruit biennially. New shoots or suckers are sent up every year. In the first year, suckers complete their physical growth and the next year the canes fruit and die.

Each spring Barkley advises cutting off all dead plant materials,

Cont'd on page 5

weak canes and any surplus strong canes at ground level. "Leave nine to 10 sturdy canes per metre. These canes should be 15 cm apart," she says.

If the patch is diseased, she suggests pruning, then burning or discarding the affected plant material at the end of the fruiting season. "If there aren't any diseases, leave the canes in the patch. They can help trap snow and aid winter plant protection," she notes.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

One room school dominates ag ambassador fair

Buffalo School has only 14 students, but now it also boasts winning three of the provincial Agricultural Ambassador School Fair high point awards.

The Buffalo community is located in eastern Alberta approximately 60 miles northeast of Brooks.

The high point awards are given to students who receive the most points in each of four divisions. Cody Christman and Clay Ross were the winners in division one (grades one to three). Christy Hoff took top honors in division two (grades four through six) and the team of Kendra Buck and Lisa Monkman earned top spot in division three (grades seven through nine).

All five of the students and their families will be treated to a weekend in Calgary courtesy of the Alberta Wheat Pool. The Pool is a major sponsor of the Agricultural Ambassador Program. The Calgary trip includes hotel accommodation and trips to points of interest including the Pool's Grain Academy.

"I guess the question for a lot of people, especially considering this third fair had the highest number of entries—over 900, was how did such a small school accomplish this," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist. "A lot of the credit goes to Dean Pike, the school's principal and teacher."

Pike, a graduate of the Summer Agricultural Institute, saw the fair as an opportunity for his students to work on their research and presentation skills inside and outside the classroom adds Gabert. "His students used their past experience with science fairs in researching, writing and presenting their projects. Even though he wasn't teaching agriculture as a unit in his classroom, he had his students work on projects and enter them in the fair."

And the Buffalo School students did work. Over the course of three months they spent class time, recess, lunch hours and time after school on their projects. In class, they did writing and word processing. Outside of class they did all the other project work.

"Dean also says he saw the fair as an opportunity for his students to learn about the concept of agricultural diversity as their family farms are almost exclusively grain and cattle operations," says Gabert.

Pike says his students "had fun and learned a great deal about agriculture even though they come from rural backgrounds".

The results were outstanding projects. For example, judges awarded the grade three entry of Christman and Ross 199 points out of a total of 200. Rations and feeding practices for a variety of livestock was their project focus. It was presented in a three dimensional format including samples and written materials.

Pike also raised $1,200 so the students could attend the fair in Medicine Hat. They also toured some agricultural points of interest in the Medicine Hat area. To recognize the community contribution to the fair, a mini-fair was held in a local community hall.

The first three Agricultural Ambassador School Fairs were held in Medicine Hat. Camrose will host the fair in 1994.

The fairs were designed to support the Agricultural Ambassador program that has the goal of naming a teacher ag ambassador in every Alberta school.

Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2402

Outstanding ag ambassador award established

An Edmonton teacher has received the double honor of having an award named after him and being that award's first recipient.

Daryl Chichak was named the first winner of an award that honors outstanding contributions by Alberta educators to agriculture awareness initiatives. Chichak teaches elementary and junior high students at Holy Family School in Edmonton.

"The Daryl Chichak Award will be bestowed for at least the next five years," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist. The award is funded through the Agricultural Ambassador Program.

The objectives of the award are: to recognize teacher agricultural ambassadors who actively support agriculture in their classrooms; to offer an incentive to agricultural ambassadors to become active or increase their activity; and, to symbolize the importance of agricultural ambassadors to the Agriculture in the Classroom Program.

As well as the Chichak award, the Agricultural Ambassador Program will also present 20 merit awards over the next five years. The first of those awards will be presented at the opening banquet of the Summer Agricultural Institute in Olds on July 12.

Chichak was one of the first 30 teachers to attend the inaugural institute in August 1990. "Since then he has become one of our most active agriculture ambassadors, working not just in his own classroom but enthusiastically and energetically sharing in his school and also going beyond that to share with his colleagues," says Gabert who co-ordinates the department's Agriculture in the Classroom Program.

"Even though Daryl is an urban teacher and has an urban background, he has come to appreciate the importance of the agricultural industry and the impact the industry has on our daily lives," she adds. "He attributes his first lessons in agricultural awareness education at the Institute as awakening his interest and understanding."

Among Chichak's accomplishments are leading teacher work-hops supporting agriculture themes, acting as an agricultural resource specialist, working at all three Agricultural Ambassador School Fairs as a volunteer (at his own expense) and also volunteering at the National Agriculture in the Classroom conference held last fall in Edmonton. He has also worked with Alberta Education to incorporate agriculture into the science curriculum, advised the Alberta Cattle Commission on the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) and was featured on CBC radio in 1991.

The award was presented at the recent Agricultural Ambassador School Fair in Medicine Hat.

For more information on the Agricultural Ambassador Program, the Agriculture in the Classroom Program or the Daryl Chichak Award, contact Gabert in Edmonton at 427-2402.

Contact: Betty Gabert, 427-2402

Summer ag education institute deadline April 30

April 30 is the deadline for teachers interested in attending the fourth annual Summer Agricultural Institute.

The agricultural awareness course runs July 12 through 23 at Olds College. "The 11-day institute is limited to an enrolment of 30," notes Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness specialist.

Launched in 1990, the institute is a full-credit, fourth year university level course accredited by the University of Lethbridge. "It's a tremendous professional development opportunity," says Gabert. "We've had just an enormous positive response from the teacher-students as well as from the agriculture and food industry through their support."

Another bonus of the program is that the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) offers full scholarships to the teachers who take the course. "So the cost to teachers is only their time during the summer," says Gabert.

During the program teachers explore the diversity of Alberta's agriculture industry through an active learning environment. This includes expert guest speakers, agricultural tours and a stay with a farm family. "In 1993 the particular focus will be on science and biotechnology," she says. "But as usual, the complete course will explore production, processing, marketing, and research and development."

Graduates from the first three institutes have become part of a growing network of agricultural ambassadors in Alberta schools. "This institute has forged strong links between educators and the agriculture industry, and has given Alberta students a much better picture of how agriculture fits into all of our lives."

Institute brochures—with application forms—and further information are available by calling the Agriculture in the Classroom program in Edmonton at 427-2402.

Contact: Betty Gabert, 427-2402

Agri-News briefs

Kinsella ranch bull sale April 14

The University of Alberta's beef cattle research ranch at Kinsella is holding its bull sale April 14 at 1 p.m. Yearling and two-year-old bulls from three synthetic lines will be on offer. These bulls have been developed through 32 years of selective breeding, research and culling. Bulls will be available for inspection anytime up to noon on sale day. The sale starts at 1 p.m. The research ranch is located one-half mile north of Kinsella down the hamlet's main street. For more information, contact Gary Minchau at 336-3528 or 336-2388.

Growing Christmas trees seminar at U of A

The University of Alberta is offering an extension course on growing Christmas trees. The two-day course is April 30 and May 1. Thousands of Christmas trees are imported from British Columbia and the United States into Alberta each year. Local land owners can take advantage of this lucrative business. Course participants will be introduced to the trees that show the most potential, and how to plant, space, weed and protect a tree crop. The course fee is $120 and it includes a field trip to Christmas tree farms. For more information, contact Brent Waite at 492-3029.

Video studies entrepreneurial living

Now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library is a 30-minute video on five small alternative businesses. The episode of CBC's "Country Canada" focuses on the entrepreneurial spirit, business practices and philosophies of Neechie Foods, Tall Grass Prairie Bakery, Family Soup Maker and Miss Vickie's Potato Chips. For loan information write: Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

April 5, 1993

Hog market strength pleasant surprise

So far in 1993, the price strength in hog markets has been a pleasant surprise to most producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"It's also been an embarrassment to the majority of traders and analysts who predicted flat to lower prices in the first quarter of 1993," says Ron Gietz.

"Those predictions were based on higher slaughter volumes, about three per cent above 1992 levels," he adds. This slaughter volume estimate was based on a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) December 1 Hog Inventory Report that indicated a modest expansion was continuing. However, U.S. kill levels dropped below 1992 levels—the exact opposite of what would have been expected based on the December hog report.

"There are two possible explanations," says Gietz. "that the USDA December report was wrong, or that some special condition caused a temporary decline in slaughter levels.

"The market," he adds, "is leaning towards the first explanation. According to this train of thought, the USDA missed a turning point in the hog cycle and the American swine herd is well into a contraction."

Gietz notes that the second explanation also merits consideration. One reason is the credible track record of the USDA's Hog Inventory Reports. Second, a large amount of anecdotal evidence points to poor performance in U.S. hog barns. Factors named include variable temperatures, high humidity and low quality corn and soymeal. A third reason is that U.S. producers are striving for heavier slaughter weights. In combination with performance problems, this could add up to a temporary slaughter reduction.

"The ultimate test of the two theories will be whether or not slaughter volumes begin to climb above year-ago levels by late April or early May," he says.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

NISA changes make program more efficient and user-friendly

Simplified forms, an expanded eligible commodities list and an option to open accounts at financial institutions are among the improvements made to the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) program for the 1992 taxation year.

Program details were announced by federal Agriculture Minister Charlie Mayer and Ernie Isley, Alberta's agriculture, food and rural development minister.

Producers will be able to open NISA accounts at participating financial institutions close to home beginning May 1, 1993. They can deposit their 1992 NISA funds there and also have 1990 and 1991 deposits transferred. To apply to transfer NISA funds or make deposits for the 1992 tax year, producers should contact their local financial institution. Holding producer deposits in local financial institutions was recommended by the national NISA committee.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Hog market strength pleasant surprise 1

NISA changes make program more efficient and user friendly 1

Editor's note 2

Don't let soil leave home 2

Stripper eases harvesting stress 3

New sheep ROP program featured at workshops 3

Taming of the wild berry 4

Capital destinations, political pursuits for 4-Hers 4

New field services assistant deputy minister 5

Briefs 5

Alberta

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"We are offering producers the opportunity to keep their NISA deposits in the financial institutions of their choice, and keep their money in their own community," says Mayer. This option, and the others announced, are part of a continuing effort to improve the NISA administration's client service.

"Farmers have always wanted the opportunity to keep their investments within the local community. The changes to NISA that we are announcing will allow them to do just that," says Isley. "As well, by extending NISA to special crops such as honey, beans and onions, Alberta is another step closer to a whole-farm safety net program."

In some provinces new eligible commodities were added, bringing NISA closer to a "whole farm" safety net program. In Alberta the commodities added were white beans, colored beans, yellow seeded onions and honey.

Producers will also notice a difference in the 1992 NISA forms. Forms have been simplified and their content reduced by 20 per cent. Current NISA participants will receive only the forms and instructions necessary for their operation. All forms have line numbers for easier reference and completion.

Producers also will have the option of submitting their applications on computer diskette through a "disk direct" service. Software programs are available through private companies, but programs must be pre-certified by the NISA administration. A disk direct authentication and consent form is available from the NISA administration at 1-800-665-6472.

The deadline for filing 1992 NISA forms is July 31, 1993. For more information on NISA programs or completing NISA applications, call the NISA information line toll-free at 1-800-665-NISA (6472).

Contact: *Lloyd Andruchow*
422-5672

Phil Cochrane
Mr. Mayer's office
(613)996-2508

EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue, and subsequent **Agri-News** issues up to National Soil Conservation Week, April 19 to 25, will have stories related to this national awareness week. The complete media kit will be available on two electronic bulletin boards. Alberta Agriculture's Compu-Farm in Olds, and also the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association's News Network. If you would like a hard copy of the kit, please contact Barb Shackel, conservation and development branch in Edmonton, at 422-4385.

Don't let soil leave home

There are some things that you shouldn't leave home without, but their top soil is one thing farmers should always leave at home.

"Now spring has sprung and the snow cover on fields is rapidly disappearing, it's time to think about emergency measures to control wind erosion," says Ben Froebel, a regional conservation co-ordinator.

Currently soil moisture levels in Alberta aren't significantly better than they were at freeze up he adds. When winter started nearly three-quarters of Alberta's agricultural area was rated as dry or extremely dry. As well, most areas that needed a snow accumulation didn't get one.

"This potentially dry situation could change quickly if we have heavy snow and/or rainfalls after the ground thaws. But, since we can't be certain that the weather will co-operate, the potential for wind erosion is very real," says the Red Deer-based Froebel.

The most effective, cheapest and simplest method for preventing wind erosion is maintaining an adequate level of crop residues on the soil surface. As well, crop residues improve soil organic levels, moisture retention and fertility.

"However," Froebel notes, "extended drought or repeatedly growing crops that leave little residue can leave soil very susceptible to wind erosion."

He suggests two ways to control wind erosion. They are mulches and emergency tillage.

A straw mulch can be applied by hand or with a bale shredder. Concentrate on problem areas such as knoll tops, sandy pockets and exposed areas to prevent erosion from spreading. After applying a uniform layer of straw, anchor it by lightly discing or cultivating at right angles to the prevailing wind.

Manure is another effective mulch he adds. A solid cover can be applied to problem areas, again at right angles to the prevailing wind. For an entire field, apply manure in strips. The space between the strips shouldn't be more than twice the width of the strips. His other advice: "Don't work the manure in".

"Emergency tillage is an extreme last resort measure that should only be used when wind erosion is unmanageable," says Froebel. "It's a temporary method that can turn a field's smooth surface into a rough, cloddy surface."

This roughness can slow wind and catch soil particles he adds. "Work at right angles to the prevailing wind and till deep enough to bring lumps of soil to the surface."

Froebel recommends ridge widths should be four times their height. On sandy soils, the entire field should be ridged. On heavier soils, the ridging can be in strips, and the space between strips not be more than twice the width of the strips.

For more information contact your Alberta Agriculture district office, regional conservation co-ordinator, or the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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340-5329

National Soil Conservation Wee

April 19-25, 1993

Agriculture Canada

Alberta

Stripper eases harvesting stress

There's no sis-boom-bah attached to this stripper, but it could provide Alberta farmers with some welcome stress relief during harvest.

"I think the biggest advantage to combine stripper headers is stress reduction," says Stuart Tucker. "We're working with a very tight harvest window in this province, and if we can shorten the harvest we can reduce stress and possibly reduce farm accidents during this time."

Tucker, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Lacombe, arranged to have the first stripper header brought into the area. About 125 farmers attended the field demonstration day last fall. On display was a Shelbourne Reynolds Stripper Header brought in from England through Pentagon Farm Equipment in Lacombe.

Shortening the harvest interval, increasing combine speed and decreasing combine requirements are some of the advantages offered by using a stripper header. As well, the innovative header could contribute to soil conservation.In summing up the advantages, Tucker says, "You can start harvesting earlier, therefore you're finished much earlier. You have more time to look after the straw and the other things that have to be done before the end of the season."

The header essentially combs the grain with a cylinder that revolves from 200 revolutions per minute (rpm) to about 1,100 rpm. "It combs up the straw, pulls all the grain off of the straw and dumps the grain onto a cross conveyor into the machine," explains Tucker. "It leaves all of the straw standing." The equipment actually works better at higher speeds he adds. It was tested at speeds up to nine miles per hour (mph). This compares to four or five mph used with a conventional header.

Dennis Hueppelsheuser, who farms 4,000 acres at Blackfalds, agreed to use the stripper header as part of the demonstration. He tested it for four days on various types of barley averaging between 60 and 90 bu/acre. "We ran side-by-side comparison trials with the 20 foot stripper header and a 24 foot conventional flex head," says Hueppelsheuser.

"I could fill my tank with the stripper header nine minutes faster than the other machine could." He adds the stripper header also did a better job of recovering the flat, downed crop, a common harvest problem last year.

"I think it's an exciting piece of equipment," says Hueppelsheuser. "There's no doubt in my mind that if you're using three machines, you can eliminate one and maybe even eliminate one if you're using two." Because there is less straw going through the combine, he feels moving to a smaller combine could also be an option.

Although some people have expressed concerns about the amount of straw left standing, Hueppelsheuser thinks they're unfounded. "We did enough acres in enough different conditions. We did everything from high moisture to bone dry and the straw did not cause us any trouble with the normal way we handle straw." He normally does two tillage passes in the fall. Tucker points out baling and mowing are alternatives to tillage. "Mowing did an excellent job, and provided a nice even covering of straw. If the straw is to be baled, it can be swathed and baled immediately because it is left standing dry, eliminating moisture and mold problems.

"This machine is remarkable," he adds. But, it's not cheap. The hook-up-and-go price for a 20-foot header and adaptor is about $40,000. Each adaptor is custom ordered for individual combines. The limiting factor of the machine is size as 20 feet is the largest available width. The current model is designed for coarse grains and grass seed. Modifications are being tested for oilseed crops.

Hueppelsheuser is thinking about purchasing a stripper header. He describes it as a good option, although the initial cost is about double that of a conventional header. He adds the header will definitely fit into conservation systems and will likely fit even in zero-till systems. "There's no doubt that it will become an option for a number of farmers," he says. "The design and principle are good."

There are other companies looking at developing stripper headers. As well, Shelbourne-Reynolds is working on a model that will handle oilseeds. "Because of the good response they received here in Canada, the company wants to test the new model in Lacombe when it is completed," says Tucker.

Contact:	*Stuart Tucker*	*Dennis Hueppelsheuser*
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New sheep ROP program featured at workshops

The newly released on-farm record of performance (ROP) computer program for sheep will be the featured topic at a series of workshops across Alberta in May.

The ROP user's workshops will be held in Stony Plain on May 3, Red Deer on May 4, Airdrie on May 5 and Spirit River on May 15.

"The evening workshops will provide a general introduction to ROP for sheep breeders and also more specifics," says Kim Stanford, Alberta Agriculture provincial sheep specialist.

Stanford adds two of those specifics are the on-farm use and the new feature of expected progeny differences (EPDs). "Through the workshop we can show interested sheep producers what ROP can do for them. Because it's available on a home computer system, it's more convenient as they can do it for themselves," she says.

While EPDs are commonplace now in cattle breeding, using these statistics is relatively new to sheep breeders says Stanford. By using EPDs, breeders can compare a particular animal or animals to a breed standard. EPDs are then used to help make breeding decisions.

All the workshops start at 7 p.m. and are scheduled to end at 9:30 p.m. The Stony Plain and Spirit River workshops are at the

Cont'd on page 4

respective Alberta Agriculture district offices. The Red Deer and Airdrie workshops will be held at the regional agriculture offices.

Contact: Kim Stanford
381-5150

Taming of the wild berry

Saskatoons are the white blossoms of spring, purple berries of summer and scarlet leaves of autumn—and all of their color can be in your own garden.

Several varieties of saskatoons are now available says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks. "These give you a choice of growing saskatoons yourself for fruit, instead of picking them in the wild. Or, having the attractive shrub as part of your yard."

Currently available saskatoon varieties include Smoky, Northline, Thiessen and Honeywood.

The saskatoon has a long history on the Prairies. Its fruit was a staple in the North American aboriginal diet. They also used the straight, strong wood for many things including arrows. Settlers also enjoyed the berries.

"Today the saskatoon is a valuable shrub for its spring and autumn colors. As well, the berries are a favorite fruit eaten fresh or in pies, wine, juice or fruit leathers," says Barkley.

"If you plan to grow saskatoons in your yard or garden, start with healthy stock," she adds. "Your orchard will only be as good as the plant material you start with."

Saskatoons thrive in light to medium loam soils with good drainage. The site also needs to be well-prepared the year before the saskatoons are planted. This includes adding organic matter to the soil and cultivation to control perennial weeds.

Place plants in rows two metres apart or in groups 2.5 m apart. "This makes it easier for plant maintenance," she adds. This maintenance includes shallow cultivation around established plants to remove weeds.

Pruning should be done each spring. The ideal plant height is 2 m. Remove all diseased, damaged and weak growth she says. "Pruning needs to be early, but not until after the danger of severe cold weather has passed.

"When the plants are six to seven years old, prune out the wood that is loonie-sized or larger, as this will encourage new and vigorous shoot growth. You'll need to do this about every three years."

Water is a major requirement in establishing young plants and to encourage plump, juicy berries. Barkley recommends watering plants from blossoming until harvest. "Supply an average of 15 to 25 mm per week, depending on your soil type and the weather."

Saskatoon berries can be harvested when they turn from pink to deep purple. The fruit ripens fairly evenly, so most of the crop can be picked at one time.

"Unfortunately, birds like the berries too, so you might have to hang bird-scare devices in your orchard," she says.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Capital destinations, political pursuits for 4-Hers

Twelve Alberta 4-Hers travelled to four destinations including the national capitals of Canada and the United States during late March.

"All of the trips were won by these 4-H members during last year's provincial selections program," says Marguerite Stark, provincial camping and 4-H exchange specialist. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

Six of the young Albertans went to Ottawa from March 26 through April 1 for a national citizenship seminar. They were: Shandi Aaserud of Craigmyle, Lee Heidecker of Coronation, Kyla Makowecki of St. Paul, Sheila Soder of Red Deer, Tamara Tverkutes of Taber and Becky Nixon of Byemoor. Mahlon Weir, 4-H branch supervisor of program services, accompanied the delegates.

"Delegates gain a much greater awareness of the Canadian political system and often see how difficult it is for politicians to please everyone," says Stark of the Canadian 4-H Council sponsored seminar. Among seminar activities are visiting Parliament Hill, attending a House of Commons sitting and touring Government House.

Clarence Wildeboer, 20, of Lacombe also was in Ottawa. He met there with other Canadian delegates on March 25 before going on to Washington, D.C. for the U.S. national 4-H members' conference.

"This is one of the most prestigious 4-H trip awards available to Alberta 4-H members," notes Stark. Wildeboer, a nine-year member of the Lacombe 4-H Dairy Club, participated in group sessions with U.S. 4-H members discussing aspects of both 4-H and agriculture. As well, he saw historical points of interest including the Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institute, the Lincoln Memorial, Capitol Hill and the White House.

Closer to home, but also related to politics, three 4-Hers attended the Alberta Girls' Parliament from March 27 through 30. Nadine Hewson of Delia, Laura Howland of Edson and Jessica Kleissen of Fort McLeod went to the mock parliament at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre.

Modelled on the Alberta Legislature, the delegates also toured the Legislature in Edmonton as well as debating in their own "parliament". All the participants ranged between the ages of 15 through 18 and included representatives from the Rangers, Cadets, Junior Leaders, Pathfinders, Junior Forest Wardens and Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT).

Cont'd on page 5

The Alberta Girls' Parliament held its first session in 1972. It was founded by Ethel Wilson, a former MLA and cabinet minister, and is currently sponsored by the Girl Guides of Canada.

Two other Alberta 4-Hers travelled to another capital — Manitoba's. Arty Polanski of Thorhild and Merry Turtiak of Evansburg, went to Winnipeg for a national 4-H careers conference sponsored by Air Canada, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Investors Group.

"The conference is an extensive career development program," says Stark. "Delegates will explore careers related to agriculture, receive guidance in career choices and study the importance of agriculture to Canada's economy."

Before the conference began on April 1, the two Albertans spent four days with a Manitoba host family. They also toured cultural, educational and business points of interest in the Winnipeg area.

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New field services assistant deputy minister appointed

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development has a new assistant deputy minister for its field services sector.

Les Lyster brings more than 20 years experience in the department to his new position. Most recently Lyster spent almost five years as the director of the economic services division.

"In addition to a high energy level and a great deal of enthusiasm, Les brings many varied experiences with the department to his new job," says C.D. (Doug) Radke, the department's deputy minister. "That experience will serve both him and the department extremely well in these challenging times."

Lyster first worked for the department as a district agriculturist assistant in Drumheller in 1969. He went on to become a district agriculturalist in Strathmore and Lethbridge after his graduation from the University of Alberta in 1970.

His dozen years working in extension positions included stints as a regional farm management specialist and regional farm economist. During that time he earned a masters degree in agricultural economics from the Universtiy of Alberta in 1978.

Lyster was also a grain market analyst for the department as well as a member and then acting chairman of the department's planning secretariat.

He was appointed to the position of economic services director in mid-1988. His areas of responsibility included the market analysis and statistics branch, production economics branch, farm business management branch and agricultural transportation branch. He also served in other roles and on special projects such as representing Alberta on the national Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) committee.

"I'm look forward to the opportunity to serve the farm families and agri-food sector in Alberta in my new capacity," says Lyster.

The field services sector includes the rural development division (agricultural education and community services branch, agricultural engineering branch, and home economics and 4-H branch), the department's six administrative regions and public lands staff joining the agriculture department.

Lyster succeeds Irene Leavitt who retired in the fall of 1992. Leavitt joined the department in 1958 as a district home economist.

Lyster was raised on a farm near Stettler. He is married and has two children.

Contact:	*Les Lyster*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2440	*427-2145*

Agri-News briefs

Grampa says town people need agriculture, too

A baby on a billboard has this message for Edmonton and Calgary: "Grampa says town people need agriculture too." The Royal Bank of Canada sponsored the billboard as their way to help Canadian farmers deliver a message to their urban cousins. "Most farmers feel that city people don't really understand agriculture in terms of production practices and the importance of agriculture to the economy," says Keith Sveinson, Royal Bank's Alberta district manager of agricultural banking services. "The billboard makes the point that rural and urban people are both dependent on agriculture, and that farm issues are ultimately relevant to everyone." The billboard is the first stage of a national campaign of the bank's agricultural banking services division. It will be supported by other information-based initiatives aimed at increasing awareness among urban consumers. The billboard went up in Edmonton in March on the Yellowhead Trial between St. Albert Trail and 127 Street, and is scheduled for a downtown Calgary location later this month. For more information, contact Keith Sveinson in Calgary at 292-3475.

Disease affects russian wheat aphid population

A native southern Alberta fungus infected and killed many Russian wheat aphids last summer. This is the first time since the aphid arrived in Alberta in 1988 that a disease has had an impact on the Russian wheat aphid population. Because the Russian wheat aphid is a recently introduced pest, the effect of native disease-causing fungi and other native natural enemies is largely unknown. This aphid is an ideal candidate for biological control, but before importing natural enemies from its place of origin Canadian scientists are studying natural enemies—such as fungus—that are here. Mark Goettel, an insect plant pathologist, and Rick Butt, an entomologist, say native insect diseases will play a role in natural control of Russian wheat aphid populations. Both work at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge research station and have been monitoring the aphids since 1989. Occasionally, when aphid populations are high and environmental conditions are favorable, fungus disease outbreaks will reduce aphid populations. However, since these fungus disease outbreaks are uncommon after September because of cooler weather, winter wheat will continue to be at risk. Importing exotic fungus during late fall may help control Russian wheat aphid populations. For more information, contact Goettel or Butts in Lethbridge at 327-4561, or Jim Jones, Alberta Agriculture entomologist in Brooks, at 362-2291.

Western Canadian beef herd growing

Alberta's beef herd has been growing at an annual rate of three or four per cent. "That is higher than the previous Statistics Canada estimate of a two to three per cent growth rate," says Ron Gietz, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Statistics Canada January 1 Livestock Inventory Report includes important revisions dating back to 1986 based on 1991 census data. "These revisions resulted in high inventory estimates for beef cows, particularly in Alberta," notes Gietz. The report also shows while the beef cow herd is still growing in Western Canada, growth may have halted in Eastern Canada. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Slaughter cattle prices hit new heights

Underweight cattle have been a key factor in slaughter cattle prices boldly moving into new price territories says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Slaughter cattle prices reached the previously unheard of $86 per hundred weight level in the U.S. and climbed to the $100 level in Western Canada during March," says Ron Gietz. Just as overweight cattle were the single most important factor in the price collapse of 1991, underweight cattle were the key factor in the price climb of early 1993. "The reduced carcass weights are due primarily to the terrible winter much of the cattle feeding U.S. states had," he adds. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Look at lamb marketing options early

An Alberta Agriculture market analyst advises lamb producers to consider all their marketing options for this year's lamb crop early to maximize their returns. "The Innisfail plant provides good prices as long as the lambs aren't overweight," notes Jo Ann Sandhu. "For producers with plenty of low cost feed who want to feed to heavier weights, U.S. markets offer good returns, but ram lambs must be castrated." Producers with smaller flocks may want to sell their lambs as feeders, or put together loads with other producers to take advantage of better prices offered for larger pre-sorted shipments she adds. "Finally, you should take a good look at your ewe lambs, because prices for breeding stock are likely to be strong this year," she says. For more information, contact Sandhu in Edmonton at 427-5387.

CWB changes better for market and business planning

The Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) plan to provide estimated pool returns for the current crop year, pool return outlooks for next year and an expanded contracting program for 1994 are good news for farmers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "This means more information will be available to you as a farmer about where the CWB sees the market heading. It will help you in both market and business planning," says Larry Ruud. The CWB announced the changes in March. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Gainers jobs protected

The Alberta government has approved up to $9.247 million in funding for Gainers. The company is a significant buyer of Alberta hogs and northern Alberta cattle. The government action protects jobs pending the sale of the company to the private sector. There are currently 1,200 employees in Edmonton as well as 4,000 other jobs in Alberta indirectly related to Gainers' operations. The decision is part of the government's objective to ensure an Alberta-based and Alberta-directed international meat business continues to exist in the province says Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. The funding represents cash operating losses, including cash losses directly from operations ($3.786 million), restructuring-related costs ($3.024 million) and interest on income tax reassessment ($2.437 million) that have accumulated since the government took over the company in October 1989. The provincial cabinet made a difficult decision to approve the funding. However, as a result of the lenders' requirements, the province's choices were either to make a cash injection into the company or to allow a wind-down of operations. "The approved funds will be used to support Gainers' working capital requirements and should be sufficient to meet Gainers' needs until a sale of the business is completed," says Isley. The provincial government has had ongoing discussions with prospective purchasers and there are prospects for a sale. A sale has to meet a number of objectives. "The province has also stipulated that any sale should contribute to the development of the pork industry in Alberta," says Isley. "The sale should maximize long-term benefits to Alberta, contribute to the province's mandate to enhance Alberta's value-added and economic diversification, and consider the interests of Gainers' employees. Any sale should also ensure the maximum realization from the Gainers' assets and a minimum of financial support from government." For more information, contact Dwight Dibben, executive assistant to the minister, at 427-2137, or Barry Mehr, assistant deputy minister, at 427-2442.

Olds College jointly develops mushroom facility

In co-operation with the Canadian Mushroom Growers Association and Agriculture Canada, Olds College will develop a new mushroom growth chamber facility. Until now many mushroom suppliers have had to train workers outside Canada because this country lacked adequate learning resources. "Our new facility will be extremely valuable in providing the much-needed skill development and product investigation procedures the industry here demands," says Paul Sproule an instructor in the land resource management program. A broad range of studies including water quality, moisture balance and compost supplementation will be part of a mushroom production course taught as part of the college's horticulture program. For more information, contact Sproule in Olds at 556-8276.

Phone [illegible]

AGRI-NEWS

April 12, 1993

Agri-food exports to U.S. top $1 billion

Last year was a banner year for Alberta agricultural and food exports to the U.S.

Those exports broke the $1 billion mark for the first time notes Michael Adam, Alberta Agriculture trade statistician. "Not only did the total value of trade go over $1 billion, but the trade total for 1992 was up by 47 per cent," he adds.

In 1992 Alberta agricultural and food total exports to the U.S. were $1.15 billion. That compares to $787 million in 1991 and $596 million in 1988. Trade was up in all three major categories—animals and crops; crude animal and plant products (inedible); and, manufactured products and by-products.

"In general, the positive atmosphere and trade environment created by the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement (CUSTA) contributed to the increases," says Dave Rous, a department trade director for the Americas.

"I'm particularly pleased with total beef exports to the U.S. market," he adds. Rous led a five-year co-operative project with the beef industry to bolster Alberta Beef sales in the U.S.

"In 1987 we did about $50 million worth of beef trade to the U.S. The project's goal was to double that to $100 million by 1992. The teamwork from our 'Alberta Beef Team' with members from Alberta packers, the Alberta Cattle Commission, Agriculture Canada and the department has certainly paid off. Not only did beef exports reach that level, but totalled over $173 million in 1992," says Rous.

"Aggressive marketing by certain Alberta packers was a major reason for the significant rise in the beef trade in 1992," he adds. Beef exports were up by over 109 per cent, rising from $82.9 million in 1991 to $173.4 million last year.

The cattle and beef sectors were a major factor in the trade statistics. Live cattle and beef exports totalled over $630 million, or over half of the total trade.

Canola oil sales also continued their steady growth. Last year's exports totalled $57.9 million, up from $50.4 million in 1991. Canola oil exports have doubled since 1988 when their value was $28.3 million.

There are two reasons for the increase. One is North American response to health concerns. More U.S. consumers are choosing canola oil as an alternative to other cooking oils as they learn about canola's healthful qualities.

As well, canola products are one of the commodities that received accelerated tariff reduction in the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement. The U.S. tariff on canola oil added significantly to the cost of doing business. That tariff on canola oil as well as canola seed, meal and flaxseed was cut in half on July 1, 1991, with the remainder disappearing on January 1, 1992.

Tariffs on Canada's agri-food exports to the U.S. have declined on average by about 60 per cent since the free trade agreement took effect on January 1, 1989 says trade analyst Darcy Willis. Agricultural tariffs will be completely eliminated by 1998.

"More significant than the tariff reductions is the positive trade atmosphere that's been created," says Willis. "More open trade has seen growth in primary products such as wheat, as well as value-added products."

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This Week

Agri-food exports to U.S. top $1 billion 1
Phosphorous fertilizer study starts final year 2
Be wary of coyote repellent ear tags 2
Not just another dirty play 3
Conservation poet and family earn honors 3
Soil and water erosion an urban challenge too 4
Triple win for Magrath school in provincial poster competition 5
Scouts plus trees equal shelterbelt 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Phosphorus fertilizer study starts final year

Going into the final year of a three-year province-wide project, Alberta researchers anticipate they will be able to give farmers better advice on when and how much phosphate fertilizer to apply.

"With two years of interesting results behind us in the field studies, we're optimistic that we can give farmers improved recommendations on phosphate fertilizer application after we've completed the study," says Ross McKenzie, the project manager and an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist based in Lethbridge.

Prairie soils are very low in natural sources of phosphorus-containing minerals. However, a number of other factors from accumulated phosphorus to soil moisture can play a major role in whether or not crops will respond to added phosphate fertilizer.

During the first two trial years in over 45 research sites across the province's six soil zones and 20 agro-ecological areas, the research team has seen a high response to added phosphate fertilizer in wheat, barley and canola crops.

In 1992, 89 per cent of wheat sites, 96 per cent of barley sites and 77 per cent of canola sites responded to the added phosphate fertilizer. In 1991 the respective responses were 78 per cent in wheat, 89 per cent in barley and 82 per cent in canola.

"It will be very interesting to see if similar results occur this year," says McKenzie. "Early in the growing season last year we saw good responses to phosphorus fertilizer at a number of locations and that was eventually measured in the final grain yield," he adds.

While prairie soils have low natural phosphorus levels, some agronomists believed residue phosphorus accumulated in soils as farmers fertilized their crops. "The fact that over 75 per cent of the research sites responded to phosphate fertilizer in the past two years means that its use is still necessary for many farmers," McKenzie says.

This research project is the first in over 20 years to look at the need for phosphate fertilizer and be conducted province-wide. McKenzie notes the need for phosphorus in crop production has been recognized for a long time. However, this project specifically aims to come up with fertilizer recommendations for farmers to help them spend their fertilizer dollars more effectively.

The other members of the research project team are Doug Penny and Elston Solberg of the soil and crop management branch in Edmonton; Garry Coy, regional soils specialist in Fairview; and, John Harapiak and Norm Flore of Westco Fertilizers in Calgary. Other department staff involved in the project are co-ordinating laboratory and statistical analysis.

In 1993 the research project will have a total of 55 sites. Project funding is from the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Western Grains Research Foundation, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Sherritt Gordon, Cominco, Westco and the Potash and Phosphate Institute. "These sponsors were on-board for 1992 and have returned again this year," says McKenzie.

Contact: *Dr. Ross McKenzie*
381-5126

Be wary of coyote repellent ear tags

If an ear tag that keeps coyotes away from lambs sounds too good to be true to you, you're probably right says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Mike Dorrance, head of the problem wildlife section, says sheep producers should be wary of ear tags advertised to prevent predation. "There are two problems with these ear tags. One is practical, the research hasn't shown them to be effective. Secondly, they haven't been registered for use as a pesticide or repellent in Canada."

In theory, a lamb wears the olfactory repellent ear tag with an unpleasant or peculiar odor. That odor is supposed to keep coyotes from attacking young animals. "However, when that theory was tested at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho and at the University of Wyoming the tags didn't reduce predation losses," says Dorrance.

"And, I'm not aware of any research that shows repellent ear tags are effective for preventing predation," he adds.

One reason the repellent probably isn't useful is because coyotes respond visually, or to what they see, and not to what they smell when they're attacking says Dorrance. "So, if a coyote attack on a lamb is based on what the coyote sees—the lamb—and not an odor—the repellent ear tag—then whether a repellent smells like roses or skunk oil probably isn't relevant."

Dorrance also notes predatory repellent ear tags haven't been registered for use through the federal Pest Control Products Act. This act requires all pesticides, including repellents, to be registered before they can be legally used in Canada. "One of the requirements for registration is that the company show that the product is effective," he adds.

For producers who are worried about predation, Dorrance advises proven control methods that are a better investment than the ear tags. These include electric fences and guardian animals such as dogs and donkeys. "Increased vigilance during lambing also will help you control predation," he adds.

Contact: *Mike Dorrance*
422-4844

Not just another dirty play

Creatures of Habit isn't just another dirty play, it's a play about dirt.

The musical revue, created by Camrose's Prairie Fire Theatre Company, attempts to answer the question what can be done to save valuable topsoil from wind and water erosion. The hour-long play premiered last year during 1992's National Soil Conservation Week.

Despite its focus on soil conservation, the play's foremost goal is entertainment. So, the production has made Prairie audiences both laugh and reflect on an increasingly prominent issue in rural communities through drama, music and comedy.

For example, a roving reporter character seeks the scoop on the "dirt" of the matter. A pair of ducks talk about being forced from their wetland home. At a Recreational Tillers Anonymous Meeting, a farmer confesses his difficulty in resisting the temptation to cultivate. Two old farming friends meet to watch their favorite soap—As the World Turns—and start to talk about being "creatures of habit".

Actors Martin Murphy, Mike Zimmerman and Kate Anderson researched the issue with a group of farm conservation couples before writing the play. "We met with five couples in Rosalind every Tuesday for a month," says Murphy. "We asked for information, facts and concerns surrounding the issue of soil conservation and talked about individual farms and farming communities."

Their focus group helped the creative team key on critical concerns. "These discussions helped us create some of the scenes and fill out ideas we already had," adds Murphy.

They also had additional help in preparing the play. Director, Paul "Sparky" Johnson assisted in writing the script. Ken Eshpeter, a Daysland area farmer and one of the 1993 award winning conservation farmers, wrote all of the poetry.

"We've been to a lot of different places," says Murphy, "and it's been going over great. We're very happy about that." Creatures of Habit has been scheduled for many more communities including its first venture into British Columbia at Dawson Creek.

Prairie Fire Theatre Company is a non-profit organization working to bring to the stage some current issues in Prairie communities. The company has plans for creating other productions related to water conservation, food safety, and general farm and rural/urban questions.

Anyone interested in bringing the production to their community, or who wants more information about the company and its projects, can contact Prairie Fire Theatre Company at Box 1642, Camrose, Alberta, T4V 1X6, or call 672-6258.

Contact: Martin Murphy
672-3869 or 672-6258

National Soil Conservation Week

April 19-25, 1993

Agriculture Canada

Alberta

Editor's note: This and the next Agri-News issue (up to National Soil Conservation Week, April 19 to 25), will have stories related to this national awareness week. The complete media kit is available on two electronic bulletin boards. Alberta Agriculture's Compu-Farm in Olds, and also the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association's News Network. If you would like a hard copy of the kit, please contact Barb Shackel, conservation and development branch in Edmonton, at 422-4385.

Conservation poet and family earn honors

Through cowboy poetry many people celebrate, lament and extol a way of life. A Daysland farmer uses poetry in the same way, but his focus is soil conservation.

"The land is something more than where you stand, Especially if you've worked to see things grow" are the opening lines of "The Land" by Ken Eshpeter. Those lines not only illustrate the common theme of his poetry, they also are the basis of how he farms.

This strong belief in soil conservation and the benefits of minimal soil disturbance convinced Eshpeter to move to a one-pass direct seeding system. His commitment isn't limited to his own farm as Eshpeter also works to promote conservation awareness through a variety of organizations. His poetry has been one way he's spread awareness. Besides being published in soil conservation publications, his poetry was also used in a soil conservation play, "Creatures of Habit" produced by the Camrose-based Prairie Fire Theatre Company.

Eshpeter's commitment to soil conservation is shared by his family including his wife Sharon and children Nathan, 15, Lisa, 12 and Evan, 6. Their dedication has resulted in the 1993 Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS)/Western Producer Conservation Farm Family Award for north central Alberta.

Cont'd on page 4

The Eshpeters don't limit their involvement to conservation activities, but pursue a number of community activities. Sharon is co-ordinator of the 4-H Community Club and is on the local school council. Ken is involved in the church council, curling club and 4-H small engines project.

Eshpeter says he feels very strongly about how he manages his land and is particularly interested in field biology and dynamics. "I feel excessive tillage is harmful to the soil," he says. "I'm also looking for ways to improve soil quality." His philosophy led him to minimal soil disturbance.

Since 1979 the Eshpeters have continuously cropped their 1,200 acre farm. They grow wheat, canola, oats and a limited amount of barley. In 1992 they added peas to their crop rotation.

"The key is making the decision of what you want to do from a management perspective," he says. "Then you have to orient your machinery and chemicals around that decision."

Their crops are direct seeded in a one-pass operation. "Minimizing tillage is the main advantage of direct seeding," he says. "Another advantage is the noticeable decrease in fuel costs."

Eshpeter's biggest concern in his conservation farming system is long term weed control. Currently Roundup is applied in either the fall or spring before seeding. "The future of reduced tillage and direct seeding depends on affordable, effective chemicals. Affordable wild oat control will always be the largest problem in Western Canada," he says. He adds soil and plant scientists should work closely with farmers to help resolve problems encountered in minimal disturbance farming systems.

Eshpeter himself has been a leader in his area in dealing with toad flax. He set up research plots with a chemical company to look at suitable control measures. He's also experimenting with an oscillating crazy harrow for incorporating pre-emergent herbicides. "I have been extremely pleased with the results so far," he notes.

Right now tillage is Eshpeter's last resort with a weed problem. He doesn't believe in leaving black soil to blow. One of poems captures that sentiment best. "*The neighbor's farm came by last night,*" starts "Let's Save Our Soil". "*It caught me unaware/ It rattled the door, it tried to get in/It gave me quite a scare...A howling wind came up last night/It blew the soil real hard./ The neighbor's field that was nice and black/By morn was in my back yard...So let's do our part and learn how to keep our soils in their rightful place/to say to our kids that it all blew away would be such as tragic disgrace.*"

Contact: Ken and Sharon Eshpeter
374-2403

Editor's note:Four Eshpeter poems—including the two that are excerpted in this story—follow on page 8.

Soil and water erosion an urban challenge too

Often soil and water erosion are categorized as rural issues, but they can also be a concern in urban areas.

Urban home owners need to be aware of potential soil and water erosion in their yard and garden areas, especially in newly landscaped locations. For landscape developers, that means paying particular attention to slope, site design and actual development.

Foothills Landscaping, a Calgary company, is working with those challenges in a new development in northwest Calgary. Henry Heuver, Foothill's president, says he believes developers are generally very good at considering soil conservation concerns when developing an urban area. "Their whole development is done by engineers, who are always concerned about slope stability, drainage and so on." As well, in an effort to avoid any problems, the City of Calgary has developed strict regulations for drainage and works closely with developers.

"MacEwan is a very unique site," says Heuver of the current Foothill's project. "We were working with a very steep slope, with a drop of over 70 feet from the high to the low point." The housing development is below the slope, so first it was crucial to ensure a stable slope.

"It was also important to provide a reasonable drainage system, to eliminate any slope problems," he adds. From an erosion point of view, properly designed drainage is important. Water should be distributed as much as possible, or channelled through particular areas with a capacity to handle the water volume.

An added challenge was keeping the development design complementary to the adjacent Nose Hill Park. Foothills worked with a familiar partner on the project. The company has an on-going relationship with the Spencer Design Group, a Calgary landscape architecture firm. "In an urban setting, everyone likes to have nature close to home, but they all seem to have some conditions on it," Heuver says. "This adds a challenge for development planners in trying to balance these conditions with development, design, budget and erosion concerns."

MacEwan though, did include a trend that Heuver expects to see more of in future years—more use of native landscaping. "Typically, big slopes have been levelled off, seeded to grass and mowed. I think we are seeing big changes from that era."

In this development the area was kept as natural as possible using on-site materials. Because the site is visible to the housing development below, it was also important to make it attractive. "We accomplished this by doing some very careful grading, using rocks selected from the site, combined with landscape architecture and careful planting of certain hill sides," says Heuver.

Many native plants were incorporated into the site. They include poplar, willow, native roses, wolf willow, buffalo berry and native grasses. "I think this design will give some natural beauty and will

Cont'd on page 5

act as a kind of wildlife corridor, because it is attached to Nose Hill Park and some other valleys," he adds.

Although the cost of native landscaping is initially higher, the long term maintenance is considerably less. Getting areas established can be difficult during the first years. That's especially true for grasses and trees in windy areas along steep slopes. "Wind erosion is still a concern," he says. If sites aren't developed properly, wind and water erosion can prevent any natural growth.

"It takes about three years," Heuver says," so it does require some maintenance during that time. However, once these sites are established, they should be pretty well maintenance free.

"I think we have to accept how nature works," he adds. "We can't have everything neat and tidy and lined up in a natural setting. But, with some simple maintenance, it can be well kept and attractive."

Contact: Henry Heuver
273-0113

Triple win for Magrath school in provincial poster competition

Odds makers wouldn't have made the bet that out of 777 entries in a provincial competition three of four winners would be from the same school. Add in the school was in a small town in southern Alberta whose total school population is less than the number of contest entries, and the likelihood lengthens.

But that is exactly what happened in the 1992 soil conservation poster/slogan competition. Eric Bradley, 11, Karren Kay Leishman, 12 and Michael Balderson, 12, all students of Magrath School in southern Alberta were selected as contest winners. Magrath, population 1,743, is south of Lethbridge. The school has just over 750 students in kindergarten to grade 12.

While many factors influenced the triple win—certainly the talents and imagination of the students are in the forefront—hard work, plus the encouragement and dedication of their school's agricultural ambassador and science teacher also played a role.

Carol Beswick, the Magrath School ag ambassador, received information about the contest and approached Dan Baker, the school's grade six science teacher. His reaction was: "Wonderful, I can use that in my program".

Baker got some conservation materials from the Municipal District of Cardston and built curriculum ideas around the poster contest. "The grade six science class did a short unit on soil conservation, talking about farming methods, shelterbelts and wind and water erosion," he says. The posters were part of the class assignment and the students received marks for them.

"Part of the assignment was to come up with a slogan from the material learned," explains Baker, "and then build a poster around the slogan. I think that was maybe the key."

The school's grade four class also participated in the poster competition. Beswick arranged for a local soil conservation technician to attend a couple of classes and talk about a variety of issues including erosion and salinity.

"The kids were well instructed before they started on the posters," notes Beswick who is currently on a teaching exchange in Australia. "And, they had an excellent art teacher the previous year who encouraged things like posters. The combination of those two things, plus the enthusiasm we were promoting, brought about those wonderful posters."

Eric Bradley's poster depicted the earth crying "help" and the slogan, "When the earth cries we should listen. Save soil." Michael Balderson clothed his globe and used the slogan "Help the earth keep it's coating on!" Karren Kay Leishman contrasted green and brown views of Earth and green and brown fields with the message "Soil conservation is the duty of all nations".

Because of the number of excellent entries, the provincial competition co-ordinators decided to choose 12 posters for a 1993 soil conservation calendar says Barb Shackel, a conservation awareness specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton. "As it turned out, seven of the posters we chose were from Magrath school." The other students featured from Magrath School are Brad Johnson, Brad Wolsey, Michelle Perry and Jessi Minion.

Baker and Beswick also arranged to hold a local poster competition and involved a Lethbridge Herald reporter. "She was very willing to come to the school, take pictures of us and put us in the paper," says Beswick. "And that goes a long way toward promoting interest."

Prizes were awarded at the local level. Then, the posters were submitted to the provincial competition.

The four poster competition winners were invited to Edmonton and treated to lunch by Shirley McClellan, then associate agriculture minister. "The kids were very excited about winning," says Baker of his winning trio, "and the trip to Edmonton was the highlight for them."

Entries closed for the 1993 poster/slogan competition at the end of February.

Contact:	*Dan Baker*	*Barbara Shackel*
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Scouts plus trees equal shelterbelt

A field shelterbelt demonstration project for a Beiseker farmer developed into a community service project for the Second Airdrie Boy Scouts troop.

The idea for the field shelterbelt project came out of a discussion between John Timmermans, an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist, and the Airdrie Boy Scouts leaders.

At the same time, the Municipal District of Rockyview was working with a number of area farmers to develop conservation plans. The first was developed for John Richter, a Beiseker area

Cont'd on page 6

farmer. He included field shelterbelts on one section of highly erodible land.

Timmermans helped put together the plan that included a lot of labor to plant the necessary seedlings. "We designed five half-mile rows of caragana and green ash to meet the objectives of his plan," he says. "We also prepared the site for planting in the spring of 1992." In order to get proper weed control, shelterbelt sites should be prepared a year in advance he notes.

Tree seedlings were ordered from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre near Edmonton. Arrangements were made for the Boy Scouts to meet at the Richter farm on a Saturday. The boys aged 12 to 14, took turns planting trees with a tree planter.

"We wanted to show the boys what erosion was and how planting trees could help stop erosion," says Lyle Meidl, one of the Scout troop leaders. "John Timmermans provided the boys with information about what they were doing and why they were doing it."

"The Richters got involved in the project because they wanted to support the community and provide the kids with an opportunity to learn," points out Timmermans, "as well as getting the shelterbelts planted." At the end of the day the Richters lit a fire and the boys roasted hotdogs. "It was a good outing and a productive outing," says Meidl.

The Boy Scout troop returned twice to weed and maintain the shelterbelts. The Richters have invited the troop back this year to work on shelterbelt maintenance, and to see how the seedlings have grown.

Both Timmermans and Meidl point to the long term results of a project like this one. "These kids can go by in 10, 20 or 30 years and be able to say 'Hey we planted those trees.' That's what makes it a fun project,too," says Timmermans.

Meidl remembers planting trees in Saskatchewan when he was young and the satisfaction he feels every time he goes by that particular grove. "That's the reason I wanted to get involved in this project personally," he says.

Timmermans has a similar project lined up for 1993 with the Junior Forest Wardens. The Airdrie Boy Scouts summer will take them to a natural forest. Alberta scouts are hosting the Canadian Jamboree in Kananaskis. "About 10,000 Scouts from across Canada will be getting together for 10 days," says Meidl. "We've been planning for four years, so we're ready."

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Agri-News briefs

Spruce Meadows select Alberta horse auction April 29 - May 2

The third annual Spruce Meadows auction of Alberta breeds sale of select horses is much more than an auction. The four-day event April 29 through May 2 has auctions on May 1 and 2, but kicks-off by giving buyers two days to inspect and try out the 109 horses going on the auction block. Previews and demonstrations run on Thursday April 29 and Friday April 30. As well, the special "evening of the horse" on Friday at 7:30 p.m. features displays, horses and horsemanship. "This gives buyers ample opportunity to evaluate a horse or horses and not have to make a spur of the moment decision," says Bob Coleman, provincial horse specialist based in Edmonton. The auction is held in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and participating breed associations and offers a buyer protection plan. "There will be an excellent selection of horses from seven different breeds," adds Coleman. "The wide range of useful horses covers everything from pleasure to working animals, from a first horse for a child to a good cow horse." Canadian Pintos, Appaloosa, Paints and Quarter Horses will be auctioned on May 1. On May 2, Morgans, Arabians and Sport Horses will be auctioned. For catalogues and other sale information, contact Jack Hugill at Spruce Meadows at 254-3200, Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture in Calgary at 297-5560, or Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906.

Japan major hay customer in 1992

Last year was another good year for Canadian hay compactors. "Canada shipped more than 38,000 tonnes to Japan last year, compared to just 25,000 tonnes in 1991," says Al Dooley an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "The increases are even more dramatic if we look back a few years," he adds. In 1986 Canadian shipments to Japan were less than 2,000 tonnes. Timothy hay continues to make up the majority of hay shipments. Canadian exports were part of the more than one million tonnes Japan imported for the second consecutive year. More than 85 per cent of the total was from the U.S. "Some in the trade expect the Japanese market to continue its expansion to about 1.5 million tonnes. If this occurs, the Canadian industry should see more growth over the next few years," he adds. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Sustainable Agriculture Association annual meeting April 18

The Sustainable Agriculture Association will hold its annual meeting April 18 in Okotoks beginning at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Station Cultural Centre (53 North Railway Street). One of the association's newest members, Susan Darby, will kick-off the meeting with a discussion of Community Shared Agriculture (CSA). Darby has been active and successful in starting the program in the Calgary area. She'll talk about the CSA concept and how it has developed in Canada and Alberta. She'll also discuss what role the Sustainable Agriculture Association could play. After her presentation comes the business meeting including an election of a new board. For more information, contact Raphael Thierrin in Calgary at 295-1255 or Dennis Vriend in Edmonton at 955-2851.

Irrigated crops recommendations factsheet available

A five-page publication lists recommended varieties for irrigated cropping in Alberta in 1993-94. Wheat, barley, oats, fall rye, triticale, cereals for pasture, canola, mustard, sunflower, safflower, potatoes, sugarbeet, corn, pea, grass, canaryseed, sainfoin, alfalfa, dry bean, fababean and lentil varieties are listed. The factsheet also includes seeding rates and general fertilizer recommendations. "With this information farmers can determine the variety and seeding rate for each irrigated crop," says Ross McKenzie, an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist and one of the publication's authors. The publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, or by writing the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

The Land

The land is something more than where you stand,
Especially if you've worked to see things grow.
In time your heart and soul will clearly show
The value farmers place upon the land.

We talk so much of economic things,
How will the farm survive when times are tough.
Planning for the "now" is not enough.
We're hoping just to see what "long term" brings.

There isn't much time left to contemplate,
The soil lies at risk each passing day.
Collectively let's move so all will pay,
Let's not let the wind decide our fate.

Ken Eshpeter, Daysland
March 20, 1990

Let's Save Our Soil

The neighbor's farm came by last night
It caught me unaware.
It rattled the door, it tried to get in
It gave me quite a scare.

It seemed to me a strange time indeed
to call upon a man.
But suddenly it occurred to me
The call was not in the plan.

A howling wind came up last night
It blew the soil real hard.
The neighbor's field that was nice and black
By morn was in my back yard.

Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful you know
if his soil he wants to give 'way.
For the good of the land and the sake of mankind
The soil on his farm should stay.

So let's do our part and learn how to keep
Our soils in their rightful place.
To say to our kids that it all blew away
Would be such a tragic disgrace.

Ken Eshpeter, Daysland
January 18, 1990

Reflections of a Rock

I've sat for eons in this place.
Prairie wool around my base.
Buffalo have rubbed my face.
Disappeared without a trace.

They moved by mass away from here,
Making room for plowing gear.
But blowing soil is what I fear,
If I could cry, I'd shed a tear.

They say it's done to make things grow.
To bare the soil for seeds to sow.
But why in 80 years I know
The land can never cease to blow.

Man must surely change his way,
If on earth he plans to stay.
Or I may surely see the day,
When I'm alone again to stay.

Ken Eshpeter, Daysland
September, 1991

Seedling's Prayer

The seedling's head poked through the ground,
Surveyed the lands around.
Would Mother Nature welcome him
or obstacles abound?

He had this sense, he knew not why
of chilling winds and sand.
Could this be from a day gone by
When plows still ruled the land.

But on this day all did seem calm.
He felt so right at home.
The stubble made a canopy.
Just like a greenhouse dome.

He knew not how this came about
But he knew he liked the spell.
Could farmers now conserve the land,
and nurture crops as well.

Ken Eshpeter, Daysland
February, 1992

Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

April 19, 1993

AWP honored for industry leadership in conservation

Through its Conservation 2000 Program, the Alberta Wheat Pool has established itself as a leader in soil conservation education and awareness.

This distinction earned the Pool the 1993 Industry Soil Conservation Award from the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS).

"The award was established to recognize and promote outstanding support, promotion and innovation in service and/or product development that enhances soil conservation in Alberta," explains Murray Sankey, ACTS first vice-president.

"We're really pleased with this award," says JoAnne Meents Conservation 2000's program co-ordinator. The program has been growing steadily since its start in 1989. "We've been gradually building and now have about 39 clubs in Alberta," she says. "We've done a lot as far as encouraging farmer-to-farmer interaction using all of the resources that are available."

Promoting soil conservation awareness is the main focus of the clubs. The Conservation 2000 program itself provides support to clubs getting off the ground and offers a regular newsletter, an annual Practical Tips Booklet and other publications.

"We co-ordinate a number of fall seminars and leadership skills conferences," adds Meents. "We also do an annual tour to one location in the province and do what we can to help people attend."

Although a number of clubs, particularly in southern Alberta, have been around for awhile, interest continues to grow with new clubs forming across the province. For example, interest is currently flourishing in the Peace River area. "The clubs are evolving, growing into an entity in and of themselves," says Meents, "and that's exactly what we want to have happen." From a research point of view, many of the clubs work with other groups including local agricultural service boards, research groups and applied research groups. "We encourage all of the groups to work together," adds Meents.

This is the second year ACTS has presented an industry award along with recognizing conservation farm families. "This award is really recognition and a show of appreciation of the recipient's work in conservation," says Sankey. "Ray Dyken, Victory Equipment, was the first recipient of the award, which he received for his commitment and dedication to the development and promotion of the Victory Seed-O-Vator."

Any company or organization with direct involvement in Alberta agri-business is eligible to receive the award. A committee of ACTS board members submits a list with the top three nominees to the full board of directors, who then select the winner.

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MAY - 1 1993

National Soil Conservation Week
April 19-25, 1993
Agriculture Canada
Alberta

This Week

AWP honored for industry leadership 1
Conservation planning, promotion earn Hussar family award 2
Minimum tillers recognized in Peace region 2
Even "conventional" changing says award winner 3
Range is ecological resource to award-winning rancher 4
Sweet peas can be planted in mid April 4
Brand inspection services remain with province 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Editor's note: National Soil Conservation Week begins today April 19 and runs through to the 25. This series of stories is in support of the national awareness week. The complete media kit is available on two electronic bulletin boards. Alberta Agriculture's Compu-Farm in Olds, and also the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association's News Network. If you would like a hard copy of the kit, please contact Barb Shackel, conservation and development branch in Edmonton, at 422-4385.

Conservation planning, promotion earn Hussar family award

Their conservation planning is geared to the future, and they share their conviction with their family and community.

"We have always believed in leaving the farm in better condition than it was when we started farming it, and still keep the farm viable," say Robert and Arlene Filkohazy. Their children, Carey, 20, and Brett, 18, both University of Calgary students, have been brought up with this attitude of leaving things in as good or better shape than when they received them.

The Filkohazys don't limit sharing their message with their children. Both are firm believers that education is the best way to get people involved in conservation efforts. "Through the last four years of CASCI, the awareness of soil conservation and conservation techniques has heightened dramatically," says Robert. "We have really seen this in our community alone.

"Certainly we are people that are doing more in the lines of actual conservation practices on our farm," he adds, "but we've also been strong promoters of soil conservation awareness."

In an effort to promote different conservation techniques, Filkohazys have participated in demonstration plots with their local agricultural service board summer tour as well as research efforts for other groups such as chemical companies. "We have had an on-going involvement with research, in particular side-by-side comparison trials with chemfallow and tillage," he says.

Those strong conservation efforts have been recognized. The Filkohazys were selected as the 1993 Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS)/Western Producer Conservation Farm Family Award winner for the south central region.

The Filkohazys farm 2,240 acres of wheat, malt barley, canola and flax southeast of Hussar. Although they keep their rotation flexible, they average 30 per cent to 40 per cent fallow because of limited rainfall.

"We treat 100 per cent of our intended fallow acres with 2,4-D in the fall or early spring", says Robert, "which usually replaces two tillage operations." This is followed by a Rustler application to erosion prone fields, or a tillage operation with minimal soil disturbance in the summer.

Because all of their land slopes and drains, water erosion is a key concern on their farm. To prevent erosion problems, the waterways are either continuously cropped or grassed.

They have also moved to as much straight cutting as possible when combining. This increases the amount of stubble they can leave to catch snow.

Robert and Arlene are very involved in various agriculture and community organizations. Robert is chairman of the district Unifarm board for the County of Wheatland, agricultural representative on the Provincial Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Advisory committee and the Bow River Water Quality Council, and a member of the local agricultural service board, ACTS and other community organizations. Arlene is on the Farm Women with Decision Vision Conference Committee in the County of Wheatland and the Municipal District of Rockyview, Women of Unifarm and is involved in a number of other community activities.

Filkohazys were one of three couples selected to go on the North American Crop Protection Research Tour sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool and various chemical companies last year. "It was a fantastic opportunity," says Arlene. "It was really interesting, but also very busy."

Contact: Robert and Arlene Filkohazy
641-2480

Minimum tillers recognized in Peace region

Increased moisture translates to increased bushels, so Dave Forgie decided to use a minimum tillage system on his farm in Alberta's Peace region. He's also experimenting with other conservation techniques such as zero till. These conservation efforts earned Dave and Linda Forgie the 1993 Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS)/Western Producer Conservation Farm Family Award for the Peace River region. The Forgies have three children, Stephanie, 5, Scott, 4 and Shawn, 2.

Dave and Linda farm 2,700 cultivated acres at Falher. They grow wheat, Canada Prairie Spring wheat, canola, oats and peas. They also grow about 600 acres of seed grasses including timothy and fescue.

"We continuous crop most of our fields," says Dave, "except for the grass fields which require one year of summerfallow between reseeding." Timothy stands average five years, while fescue averages three years.

Forgie used to work the grasses under with a plow, but has switched to using chemfallow in the spring. He finds even low rates of Roundup break down the grasses and kills quack grass. The Roundup application is followed by one pass with a disc and one pass with a field cultivator.

"We end up with a lot more trash left on the surface, as compared to plowing which buries almost all of it," he says.

Through the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration

Cont'd on page 3

Association (SARDA), Forgie has been participating in zero till demonstration plots for the past five years.

"We've been doing comparisons of conventional and no-till plots. We are getting equal yield results so far, but by the time you subtract tillage costs off, no-till has the advantage," he says. He adds he would like to see the demonstrations continue for another five years, in order to see the best results.

Zero tillage's drawback is the delay in seeding dates he notes. "We're finding that under zero till we're delayed getting on the fields by a week to 10 days. If it wasn't for that, I would have moved completely to zero till by now."

For the future, he sees continuing with a minimum till system on the heavier black soils on his farm. "I will probably move to seeding 500 or 600 acres of our lighter, siltier soils using zero till," Forgie adds.

Forgie is also an active member of SARDA. Although the organization basically started out as no-till group seven years ago, they have expanded to other projects and two full-time staff. "We are doing some work for Proven Seed and are conducting variety demonstration trials for alfalfa, timothy and others, " he says.

Besides the SARDA directorship, he is also a member of the local agriculture service board, the Wheat Pool Committee and the community hall board. Linda is also very involved in the community. She is currently treasurer of her church board and active in school activities.

Contact: Dave and Linda Forgie
837-8037

Even "conventional" changing says award winner

Conservation farming isn't static says one of the 1993 conservation farm families winners.

In an effort to control potential wind and water erosion problems, Pat and Holly Staden were among the first in the Mannville area to move extensively to chemfallow. More recently, they have experimented with direct seeding and plan to seed everything this spring with a new disc air coulter direct seeder.

"Overall conservation has changed," notes Pat. "I think that even the definition of conventional is different than it was five years ago." He says he feels that conservation measures are increasing all the time, but there's still a long way to go. Farmers are converting old equipment, buying new equipment and making changes to their operations.

"I guess it's like us," he says, "it's kind of a gradual turnover." Whatever their rate of change, Staden Farms Ltd. was named the 1993 Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS)/Western Producer Conservation Farm Family Award winner for northeastern Alberta.

Pat and Holly manage the 2,000 acres of grainland in the family farm. His brother Philip manages the 150 cow/calf operation and his father is still actively involved in the farm. Pat and Holly have four children, Chad, 11, Brooke, 9, Brittany, 7 and Kendall, 3.

The Stadens grow wheat, barley, canola, oats and try to include either peas or lentils in their rotation. "Because of moisture," says Pat, "about 10 per cent of the acreage is under chemfallow. We hope to extend that rotation, including the lighter land, through zero-till."

Over the past 10 years they have reduced tillage, increased the use of chemfallow and started moving towards a one-pass direct seeding system. They've done a certain amount of direct seeding in the past and by next year plan to be almost 100 per cent zero-till.

"Once you get into zero-till," he says, "and depending on the machine you buy, you really lock yourself into a whole farming system." In order to help make decisions, Pat got involved with zero-till and direct seeding demonstrations.

As part of an agricultural service board summer tour, Pat agreed to provide his chemfallow field for a demonstration. "We set up the demonstration to include a comparison of 10 zero-till machines," he says. "We also toured my field that had been direct seeded with a machine leased from the Stanislaw Sandblasters, as well as a toad flax research site."

The Staden's conservation efforts also extend to their 20 elk and about the same number of bison. About half of their bison are sold for meat. "This is another component to the conservation end," says Pat of the non-traditional livestock herd. "We don't take any straw off the land for them because they don't require bedding. We've also left some bush and potholes for them."

Pat is also on the board of the Parkland Agricultural Research Initiative (PARI). The PARI board includes 10 voting members, five members are farmers and five from various organizations including Ducks Unlimited, the Lakeland Applied Research Association (LARA), Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture.

One PARI focus will be zero-till research he says. "The plan is to include zero-till research comparing long-term differences between zero-till, minimum till and conventional tillage." Other projects will compare various chemicals, soil productivity and other related research. The research results will be made more available to farmers.

Pat and Holly are both involved in agriculture and community activities. Pat is the president of the Elkpoint Chapter of the Venison Council and is a director at the provincial level. He is also involved in coaching minor hockey. Holly is involved with the school and the local curling club.

Contact: Pat and Holly Staden
763-2223

Range is ecological resource to award-winning rancher

Environmentalist is a label some people have applied to Frances Gardner who ranches on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

Gardner, the inaugural winner of the Alberta Cattle Commission's (ACC) Environmental Stewardship Award, doesn't put a tag on how he runs the Mount Sentinel ranch south of Longview near the north end of Chain Lakes. But, he does recognize what he calls the "eco-interdependence" of man, animal and native range and values the ecological resource of his foothills ranchland.

"So often the cattle industry is portrayed as the user of native eco-systems—we are the protector of them," he says. "We may not easily be given credit for that, but it's high time that it's brought to the fore." Gardner's own range management system not only improved the native range for his cattle, but the enhanced habitat also increased wildlife numbers.

When Gardner looks at the grassland of his ranch he says he sees thousands of years of potential. The general public needs to be aware of that ecological resource he says. Besides how he has cared for his land through rotational grazing, Gardner has extended his message through work with the public, media and other producers. He has worked with environmental, government and producer groups including the Society for Range Management, the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council, the Calgary Zoo and with David Suzuki for the television program The Nature Connection.

Gardner says his stewardship starts with a long-term view of the country as a lifetime investment, and the many life times of the generations to follow. Gardner himself is the third generation on the ranch. His grandfather purchased it in 1898.

Currently he and his wife Bonnie and their three children run a 600-head commercial cattle operation on 3,400 deeded and 4,800 leased acres. Gardner took over the ranch shortly after he graduated from the University of Alberta with a BSc in agriculture degree in 1970. He majored in animal science, and also took some range management courses with Art Bailey who still teaches at the university. Those courses whetted both his curiosity and interest in the native range on Mt. Sentinel.

A unanimous choice by the judging committee for the 1992 award, Gardner says he's not alone in taking particular care of native range. "There is a long history in our business of stewardship over the grasslands. The existence today of native grasslands is testimony to our grandfathers and our fathers who didn't have the technical expertise we are blessed with today, but they understood what made them tick.

"They knew the role that litter played, they knew the role that winter grazing played and all those things that went into a year-to-year cycle. We are the best friends that native eco-systems have and we all know it. It's just that we have yet to stand up and tell the public that we do."

Even Suzuki, the self-proclaimed spokesman for nature, was impressed by how the grasslands can be compatible for agriculture and wildlife. Gardner says Suzuki told him he'd never come across an eco-system that was tolerant of the "interference" of man.

Nominations are currently open for the 1993 Environmental Stewardship Award. Nomination forms are available by calling the Alberta Cattle Commission in Calgary at 275-4400. June 1, 1993 is the nomination deadline.

The Alberta Cattle Commission created the award to publicly recognize some of the individuals who are doing an excellent job of protecting and enhancing the environment. Nine people from across the province were nominated for the award in 1992.

The 1992 judging committee looked at: stewardship accomplishments in energy, water systems, air quality, vegetation, wildlife and soil; leadership activities in the community related to stewardship; involvement in research, demonstration or groups that promote stewardship; and, innovative vegetation and waste management practices.

The 1993 winner will be announced at the ACC's annual general meeting in Edmonton in December.

Contact:	*Frances Gardner*	*Ron Glaser*
	646-5638	*275-4400*

Sweet peas can be planted in mid-April

The more flowers you pick, the more you get is one of the bonuses of growing sweet peas says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Sweet pea bouquets from the garden are one of summer's fragrances for many Albertans," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks. "A bouquet can easily perfume whole rooms."

Sweet peas are probably one of the best known annual climbers. There are also sweet peas to match every planting situation, she adds, including new varieties that don't need support. Super Snoop, Little Sweetheart and Snoopeas don't need support and fit well as a mass planting, a border or a flower bed. Bijou is suitable as a border plant, in a window bow or in a hanging basket. Giant Spencer or the Cuthbertson's grow over five feet tall and need support.

Mid to late April is usually when sweet peas can be planted. "Sow them directly into your garden as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring," says Barkley.

Soaking the seeds overnight in lukewarm water speeds up germination. Seeds should be planted 2.5 cm deep. For earlier blooming, start plants indoors four to six weeks before the time to set them out.

An open, moisture retaining loam soil enriched with organic matter will help the plants grow fast. "If the soil is poor, adding compost or manure to a depth of 45 cm can help," she says.

Cont'd on page 5

Another growing tip is that sweet peas require plenty of water to grow. The plants also like full sun, but thrive in cool weather.

"Most sweet pea varieties need support to climb on, either wire or string netting with a 2.5 cm grid," says Barkley. New plants have to be trained to the wire by gently weaving them on the netting. Once started, the plants will grow up the support on their own.

"Sweet peas can also be trained on tomato cages," she adds. "Plant the seeds at six inch intervals around the cage. The result is a fountain of flowers in your flower bed or garden."

"Through the growing season, it's important to keep the pods from forming vines. This signals the plant to begin dying," she notes.

Aphids, slugs and powdery mildew are possible pests. "All are easily remedied," she adds.

Sweet peas are native to the island of Sicily and were first described by a monk in 1695. They were first cultivated in North American in the U.S. in 1750. "Much improvement has been done to the plant since its humble beginnings, for example genetically building heat resistance in the plant," she notes.

For more information, call Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391, or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
362-3391

Brand inspection services remain with province

Brand inspection and brand registration services will remain under the jurisdiction of the Alberta government.

Discussions related to privatizing brand inspection and registration have been shelved indefinitely following consultations with cattle industry organizations says Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister.

"The branch inspection and branch registration services provided to Alberta's cattle industry by the Province have long been recognized as being high-quality, well-respected services," he says. "The Province is proud to provide this important, essential service to the industry, and the industry has strongly stated a preference for the status quo."

Last fall, in response to the provincial government's overall privatization initiative, a private auction mart proposed a test to determine whether or not privatizing those services would be feasible. At that time Isley indicated he would respect the wishes of the cattle industry and that privatization would be pursued only with a full consensus from the entire cattle industry.

Because cattle industry organizations have expressed opposition to the privatization of brand inspection and registration services, the initiative has been closed and the private auction mart has stated it will shelve its proposal.

Among the industry organizations consulted were the Alberta Auction Martkets' Association, the Alberta Cattle Commission, the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and the Western Stock Growers Association.

"There will be no further discussions on the privatization of brand inspection and brand registration unless the cattle industry itself raises the issues," says Isley.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*Cliff Wulff*
	427-2137	*427-4241*

Agri-News briefs

Formal presentation of 4-H Premier's Award made

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein recently made his first presentation of the province's top 4-H award. 1992 winner Leanna Eaton, 18, of Ardrossan was formally presented with the 4-H Premier's Award earlier this month. Eaton earned the award last year at the annual provincial selections program. She was chosen from 137 of the province's leading 4-H members last spring. Before the award presentation, Eaton met with Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. Isley accompanied Eaton and her family to the meeting with the premier. Eaton completed grade 12 in January and plans to study biology at the University of Calgary in the fall. She is a long time member of the Ardrossan Creative Hands 4-H Clubs. Active in her club and regional and provincial 4-H activities, she also Ukrainian dances and is involved in environment and aerobics clubs as well as her church youth group. The 1993 Premier's Award winner will be announced on May 3 in Olds. For more information, contact Ted Youck, head of the home economics and 4-H branch in Edmonton, at 427-2541.

Olds Farm Implement Act office closed

The Farm Implement Act office in Olds closed on March 31, 1993. Melvin Service, the act inspector has retired after almost 21 years in the role. Anyone who has inquiries or problems related to new farm equipment should now contact the Farmers' Advocate office in Edmonton at 427-2188. That number is toll-free through your nearest Alberta government RITE centre.

CNE scholarship deadline May 15

The 4-H branch is passing along a reminder to past and current 4-H members who plan to apply for the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship that the application deadline is May 15. The CNE scholarship is worth $1,000. The main scholarship application deadline in July 15. For more information, contact Lori McRae or Arron Madson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

First annual exotic meat goat seminar coming to Olds April 30

Olds College and New Zealand's Landcorp are hosting a three-day exotic meat goat seminar April 30 through May 2 at the college. The focus is on Boer goats that have just been introduced to North America. Over the past year Boer embryos were implanted into recipient does housed at Olds College. This goat grows quickly and produces lean meat. A number of specialists from Alberta Agriculture, Olds College and Landcorp will make presentations on a variety of technical topics including goat production and performance, meat marketing opportunities in the U.S. and Canada, goat production economics, herd health, embryo transfer, goat production and management, the background and role of Landcorp Boer goat, and genetics and management. Participants will also have the opportunity to taste Boer goat at a barbeque on May 1. For registration and other information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 26, 1993

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Ten will enjoy eating Alberta's best

Ten lucky people from across Alberta have reaped a food reward from entering a contest in a special Agriculture Week food tabloid.

"Enjoy Eating Alberta's Best: Healthy and Safe Choices" was not only packed with information about nutrition, healthy eating and Alberta Made products, it also invited readers to enter a draw for 10 Alberta Made food baskets says Kay Dean, chair of the project committee. Dean is district home economist in Stettler.

The 10 winners are: Helen Garneau of Morinville, Peter Gill of Beaverlodge, Corrine Hands of Whitecourt, Barbara Leckie of Sherwood Park, Rose MacBeath of Edmonton, Clarence Mathers of Hanna, Bruce Smith of Maytherthorpe, Shelley Toews of Taber, Lynn Wilson of Edmonton and Violet Zolkewsi of Thorhild.

Each of the winners receives a food basket worth $200 in products and coupons. Contributions were from the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board, Alpha Milk Company, Beatrice Foods, Bee Maid Honey, the Beef Education Association, Britl Bread Bakeries, Canadian Salt, Cott Beverages West, El Molina, the Alberta Goat Breeders Association, Hamilton's Barley Flour, Highwood Distillers, Heritage Mushrooms, Lazy K Products, Lilydale Poultry, Manny's Foods, Prairie Mushrooms and Sun Prairie Mills. One winner also received a Company's Coming cookbook.

Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister, made the official draw of the winners from over 6,500 entries received from across the province.

"The food tabloid, a regional project of district home economists in the Red Deer region for the last three years, became a provincial project this year," notes Dean. Over 330,000 copies of the tabloid were inserted in three daily papers (Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat) and 27 weekly papers. As well, shoppers at Co-op stores in Calgary received the tabloid with their groceries and district home economists also distributed the tabloid.

"We had hoped to reach more of urban Alberta, but the costs were too prohibitive," says Dean. While Alberta Agriculture picked up the cost of printing the tabloids, insertion costs for the daily papers were solicited from the agri-food business community. Sponsors included the Alberta Food Processors Association, Edmonton Northlands, the Alberta Wheat Pool, the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alpha, the Alberta Pork Producers Commission, the Alberta Egg Producers Board and Fletcher's Fine Foods. In rural areas, agricultural service boards picked up distribution costs in local papers.

"The number of entries in the contest is one indicator of how well read the tabloid was," says Dean. "Some people also took time to write notes along with their entry. As well, there were numerous requests for extra copies of the food tabloid from teachers, dietitians, health professionals and others."

The tabloid is also travelling beyond Alberta she adds. "One of our department's trade directors is taking 100 copies of the tabloid to Hong Kong for a trade show."

Contact: *Kay Dean*
742-7500

This Week

Ten will enjoy eating Alberta's best 1
"Super hero" helps promote farm safety 2
Farm fatalities decline in 1992 2
Indoor, year-round testing with new soil bin 2
Alberta Farm Weather Line has the forecast 3
Bon Accord 4-Her wins provincial speaking finals 4
Dos and don'ts of buying used equipment 4
Briefs 5
Coming agricultural events notice 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Super hero" helps promote farm safety

Rural school children across Alberta will soon be joining forces with a "super safety hero" to promote safety awareness and decrease accidents on the farm.

The 1993 farm safety campaign is titled "My Super Safety Hero" and revolves around identifying super safety heroes throughout the province says Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Agriculture farm safety program manager.

"I don't want to reveal too much about our super safety hero's true identity, but I can tell you there is a little super safety hero in all of us," he says.

The safety awareness campaign marks the third year Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, John Deere Limited and the Alberta Women's Institutes have worked together he adds.

The campaign was launched last week (April 22) at Sunnyside Elementary School in Lethbridge with a skit for students. As well, the first of 10,000 brochures were handed out. The brochure introduces the "super safety hero" character and also explains to the students how they can win prizes for participating in the 1993 campaign by drawing pictures and telling a story about their own super safety hero.

"Children are naturally creative," says Kyeremanteng. "They will identify their own super safety hero and tell us why they are so special.

"Through each child's participation we hope to raise safety awareness and at the same time identify and recognize people in the community who are already safety conscious," he adds. "Through the children we are able to get our message to many people."

Additional brochures will be made available through John Deere's dealer network and the Alberta Women's Institutes whose members will be distributing brochures to rural schools.

Pictures and stories can be entered in a contest. Prizes will be awarded by John Deere. Once the winners are announced, prize presentation ceremonies will be hosted at John Deere dealerships

"John Deere Limited is pleased and excited to be part of the 'My Super Safety Hero' campaign," says Bonnie Hayden, advertising manager for John Deere Limited."John Deere Limited feels strongly about farm safety and looks forward to supporting this campaign which has as its goal, making people more aware of the importance of safety on the farm.

"Response in the past two years has been terrific and we are looking for good things in 1993," she adds.

"Your key to unlocking a safe 1991" emphasized safety around farm implements through shutting off equipment when leaving or repairing it. The 1992 campaign, "Don't turn your back on *Farm Accident*", featured a character named "Farm Accident", who could cause injury or damage without warning.

With each previous campaign bringing in over 1,500 contest entries, Kyeremanteng is expecting an equal success from the 1993 program. "We are looking for a big response to our 'My Super Safety Hero' campaign," he says.

Contact:	*Solomon Kyeremanteng*	*Bonnie Hayden*
	(403) 427-2186	*(416) 945-9281*

Farm fatalities decline in 1992

Farm fatalities declined in 1992 and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager is encouraged by the statistics.

"Fourteen fatal farm accidents last year is still too many, but it is an improvement over 1991, when there were 15," says Solomon Kyeremanteng.

Kyeremanteng credits the decrease in fatalities to programs geared to rural young people. Only two of the 14 deaths in 1992 were children, the same total as in 1991. In 1990 eight children were killed in farm accidents.

"If one child dies in a farm accident, it's one too many," emphasizes Kyeremanteng. "Many of our programs are aimed at young people and I think the results speak for themselves.

"We believe educating the children also means the information gets back to the parents, and it seems to be working," he adds.

Educating people about farm safety is an on-going process notes Kyeremanteng. As part of this process, the farm safety program is again working with John Deere and the Alberta Women's Institutes. The joint 1993 campaign, "My Super Safety Hero", was launched in Lethbridge on April 22.

The campaign revolves around a brochure that asks rural elementary school students to identify, draw and write about their own safety hero. The children can then enter their drawings and stories in a contest that features prizes from John Deere Limited. Ten thousand brochures will be distributed through the rural school system.

"Safety awareness is important and our 'super safety hero' will carry our message to the children this year," he says.

Farm machinery and implements claimed 11 lives in 1992. Four of the fatalities involved tractors and two involved trucks. Five fatalities were recorded during April and May, the busy seeding season. Seven fatalities happened in farm fields, five in farmyards and two on roadways. Nine of the victims were run over or crushed by implements.

Contact: *Solomon Kyeremanteng*
427-2186

Indoor, year-round testing with new soil bin

Manufacturers and researchers will be able to test tillage and seeding equipment indoors, year-round with a new soil bin test facility in Lethbridge.

Cont'd on page 3

The testing tool is a co-operative effort of Alberta Agriculture's Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre (AFMRC) and the Agriculture Canada Lethbridge Research Station. Designed and built by Barry Redel of the provincial research centre, the test facility is located at the federal research station.

"Originally we thought the soil bin would be used primarily to measure draft, or the pull, of tillage equipment," says Redel. "In its first month of use, we found it's ideal for evaluating seed and fertilizer placement."

The test facility is a 58 foot long bin that's 10 feet wide and two feet deep. The bin has two soil types, sandy and clay. An instrument carriage is the other main component of the tester. It's mounted on rails and pulled up and down the bin electrically. Its speed can be varied from .75 miles per hour (mph) to 7.5 mph and has a maximum total draft of 1,400 lbs. at the highest speed.

Tillage and seed equipment can be mounted to this carriage on an adjustable frame. "Draft and other forces, speed and position can all be measured and recorded as the equipment moves through the soil bin," explains Redel.

As well, the instrument carriage has a metering system for distributing seed and fertilizer by air or gravity. "This allows testing and developing work with seed and fertilizer placement as well as seed boot spread patterns," he says.

The carriage also has soil preparation equipment used to add moisture, mix, loosen, level, compact and generally condition the bin's soil.

The research centre schedules use of the soil bin tester. For more information, contact Lawrence Papworth at the AFMRC at 329-1212, or Wayne Lindwall of the Lethbridge research station at 327-4561.

Contact: Lawrence Papworth
329-1212

Alberta Farm Weather Line has the forecast

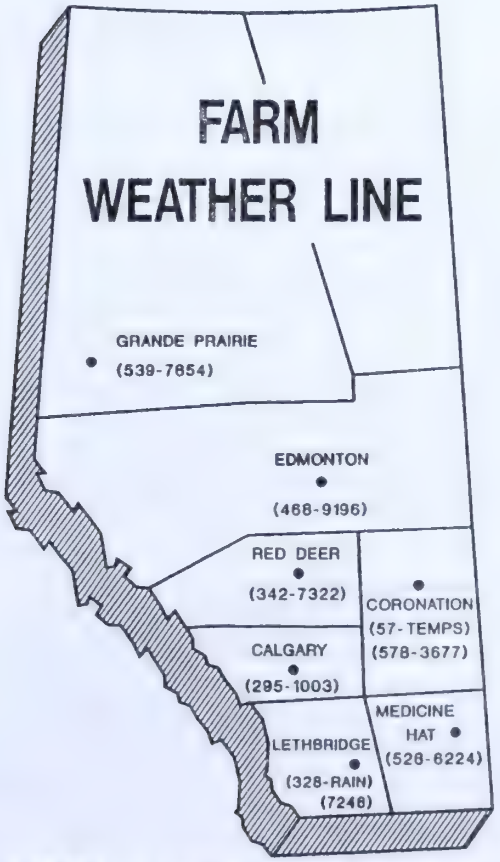
An agricultural weather forecast is a mere phone call away reminds Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"You can telephone one of seven regional weather centres for the most current farm weather forecast available," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. "Another option is listening to Weatheradio Canada for similar, specialized farm weather information."

Alberta's Farm Weather Line is in its ninth season of bringing farmers across the province up-to-date agricultural weather forecasts. The co-operative service between Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, is available year-round.

In the recorded forecasts farmers hear the same general weather information the public hears, such as expected high and low temperatures and the possibility of precipitation. But, there's extra information on wind speed and direction, relative humidity and the drying index.

Cont'd on page 4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CORONATION
(57-TEMPS)
(578-3677)
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(295-1003)
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(328-RAIN)
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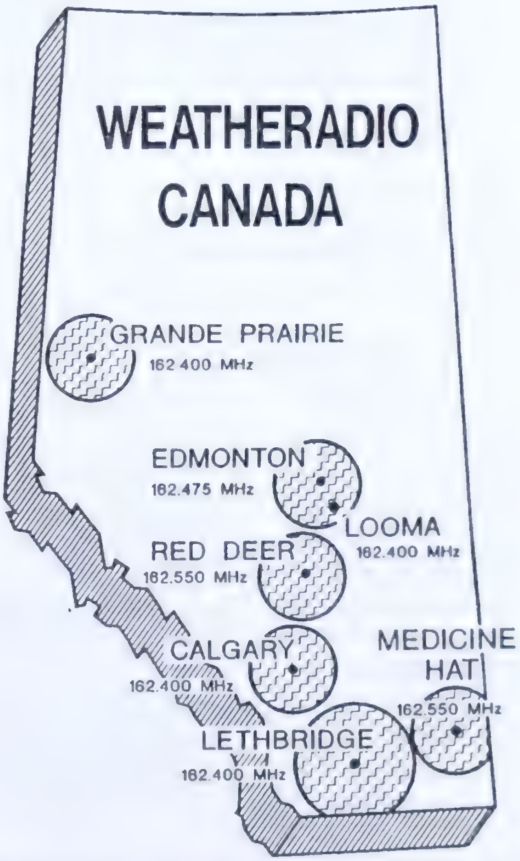
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LOOMA
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RED DEER
162.550 MHz
CALGARY
162.400 MHz
MEDICINE HAT
162.550 MHz
LETHBRIDGE
162.400 MHz

"This additional information gives farmers better information for planning their work," says Dzikowski.

Forecasts specific to each region are updated four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Farmers can call the weather line in their region. Long distance charges do apply. The telephone numbers are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Red Deer, 342-7322; Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge, 328-RAIN (7246); Medicine Hat, 526-6224; and, Coronation, 57-TEMPS (578-3677). (**Editor's note: See attached map.**)

The service is very well used notes Dzikowski. In 1992 the service received over 420,000 calls, up about 100,000 from the previous year.

The popularity of the lines sometimes means farmers have trouble connecting with it, and get a busy signal. "For farmers who live within 50 km of Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat there's another option. They can listen to Weatheradio Canada," he says.

Weatheradio Canada is a dedicated VHF-FM radio broadcast system transmitted on a frequency of 162.4, 162.475 or 162.55 megahertz (MHz). The Environment Canada service provides continuous, up-to-date weather forecast information and weather warnings directly from the weather office.

A special Weatheradio receiver is needed to receive the broadcast. Receivers costs around $60. A receiver with a warning alert feature and battery back-up power source is also recommended. So is a switch, rather than a dial, for selecting broadcast frequency.

Dzikowski notes Weatheradio Canada can be heard within about 50 to 60 km from the broadcast site. (**Editor's note: See attached map.**) Since transmissions operate by line of sight, reception may be poor in low-lying areas such as river valleys. An external antenna mounted on a tuner can help improve reception if the signal is weak.

"Check to see if the receiver works in your location before you buy one," he advises.

For more information about the Farm Weather Line or Weatheradio Canada, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
422-4385

Bon Accord 4-Her wins provincial finals

A Bon Accord 4-H member received his second major award in less than a year when he claimed the provincial 4-H public speaking championship.

Colin Strauss, 17, last summer was awarded the 1992 Grant MacEwan Conservation Award. The annual award recognizes a 4-Her who spreads conservation awareness after attending the provincial conservation camp.

Strauss started his sixth year with the Bon Accord 4-H Club last fall. He was one of the province's top 14 4-H speakers who had to win at least three levels of competition to reach the provincial final. He was also the only male in the competition.

All the finalists spoke about agriculture in the year 2000. Each contestant researched the selected topic for one week and prepared a four to six minute speech on a specific aspect of the theme. Shorter impromptu topics rounded out the event.

Strauss placed first with his speeches "Right on track" and the impromptu "Why people are illiterate in today's world". Rebecca Lowther of Spirit River was second and Leeann Gorgichuk of Two Hills was third.

"Communication training is a special emphasis in the Alberta 4-H program. Competitive public speaking is one option in that emphasis," says Arron Madson, the provincial 4-H personal development specialist.

The 1993 provincial event was sponsored by Edmonton Northlands and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Contact:	*Arron Madson*	*Colin Strauss*
	422-4444	*472-6235*

Dos and don'ts of buying used equipment

by Clifford W. Downey
Farmers' Advocate of Alberta

[Editor's note: If you use this article, please use the byline.]

Hardly a week passes without the Farmers' Advocate's office getting calls related to buying used equipment. Generally the story goes something like this...

We purchased this used tractor last week. The salesman said it was in great shape and field ready. We brought it home and after only two days of use the engine is using oil, the transmission slips out of fourth gear and the hydraulics take five minutes to raise the cultivator. Now, the salesman isn't interested in talking with us.

The buyer feels victimized, and often they are victims. Usually their sales contract is an "as is" document without any type of warranty.

You don't have to be a victim. There are some preventative measures you can take when you shop for a used tractor or other equipment. First, don't trust a description of "field ready". It's never been properly defined, and I once saw a "field-ready" combine with one straw walker completely missing.

If you're buying a tractor, do a test with a dynamometer. Dealers who sell tractors should have one or access to one. If the salesman tells you how good the tractor is, he shouldn't mind putting it on a dynamometre on full power for an hour or two. This should tell you quite a bit about the engine and some of the power train's condition. Leaks, if there are any, will start to show and cooling system problems may show-up. Most dealers will

Cont'd on page 5

also have hydraulic flow and pressure testers. These may tell you about potential hydraulic system problems.

If a dealer is unwilling to do these tests or gives excuses about a broken down dynamometre, perhaps its time for you, the buyer, to take a walk. If sales people give you verbal assurances about the product's quality, it should follow that they are prepared to write those assurances into a sales contract.

If the sales person or dealer isn't prepared to provide any written warranty on the machine, then you must clearly understand that you are buying an "as is" machine and that what you see is what you get. All of the risks are yours.

Also bear in mind that a salesman might not have the authority to approve a sales agreement. That could leave you as the only one bound by the agreement that was signed.

There are several other things you should and shouldn't do. Don't shop for power equipment when it's too cold to have it started and tested. Do remember you can easily spend $20,000 having a tractor fixed that the market said was only worth $8,000. Do pay close attention to getting estimates on work to be done and to being specific on work orders.

Finally, don't expect the Farmers' Advocate or any other government agency to perform miracles for you if your "as is" purchase turns out to be a lemon.

Problems with new equipment are easier to solve. The Alberta Farm Implement Act has regulations about warranties, failure of implements to perform as advertised in reasonable conditions and parts availability within a reasonable time. As well, a dealer or distributor is usually interested in their equipment performing well. Company warranty generally equals or exceeds the requirements of the provincial act.

The Alberta Farmers' Advocate can help resolve disputes and act as a mediator. As well, the Farmers' Advocate can provide advice on a varied range of topics. You can call the Farmers' Advocate's office in Edmonton at 427-2433, toll-free through your local government RITE operator.

Contact: Cliff Downey
427-2433

Agri-News briefs

Olds College to unveil first Boer goats in North America

Wine and cheese unveilings may be more common in the art world, but Olds College and Landcorp Farming of New Zealand plan to unveil the first Boer goats in North America the same way. The "unveiling" on April 30 at Olds College will kick-off an exotic meat goat seminar on May 1 and a commercial and contracting session on May 2 at the college. Nearly a year ago Olds College turned the sod on an embryo quarantine facility and at the same time formed an innovative Boer goat management agreement with one of New Zealand's largest corporate farmers, Landcorp. A number of Boer embryos were transplanted in recipient goats at the college last October. The first kids were recently born at the college. For more information or to register for any part of the weekend event, contact Barry Schmitt, farm manager, at 556-8389 or Ron Lane, assistant dean of extension projects, at 556-4643.

Bulletin details fertilizer management for forage crops

Agriculture Canada has just published a new research technical bulletin titled "Fertilizer management for forage crops in central Alberta". This bulletin is the result of a three-year effort by Alberta researchers to summarize fertilizer research on forage crops. Topics include yield response of grass, legume and grass-legume mixtures to nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur fertilizers. Also covered are economics of fertilizer application, animal performance and soil acidity. Limited copies of the bulletin are available from the Agriculture Canada Lacombe Research Station, Bag Service 5000, Lacombe, Alberta, T0C 1S0.

Trail revitalization party at 4-H Centre May 29-30

The description may sound like a paradox—fun-filled work bee—but, that is what's promised at a trail revitalization party at the Alberta 4-H Centre May 29 and 30. The 4-H Foundation of Alberta will supply all food, accommodation and fun, while the volunteer "partyers" are asked to supply body and brawn. "This is also a chance to see the Alberta 4-H Centre facilities first hand and to participate in its development," says Vicki Berger, foundation secretary. Work crews will dig out the new Porcupine Trial, build bridges and bank supports on existing trails, clean up the beach and do some landscaping. "To help keep the chores enjoyable we'll be holding competitions to find the fastest 4-H wheelbarrow in the province and the meanest shovel handler this side of Battle Lake," adds Berger. The 4-H Centre is located on Battle Lake west of Wetaskiwin. For more information or to register for the work bee, contact the foundation office in Edmonton at 427-2541.

CCGD meet in Banff May 30 - June 2

The Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (CCGD) will hold its 1993 annual conference in Banff May 30 through June 2. Delegates will be welcomed by Premier Ralph Klein and then hear a keynote address from Lewis MacKenzie, the now retired Canadian general who commanded UN peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The conference is focused on a theme of "our own brand of excellence". Speakers will look at that excellence from the distributor's and manufacturer's perspectives and also in two Canadian success stories in retailing and manufacturing. Other topics include: the customer is always right; a state of industry report; quality service as the force of the future; crowning the customer; and, opportunities farther west. For more information, contact Yollande Scott at the CCGD at (514)849-3021.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **June, July August or later in 1993**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by* May 26, 1993 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

*("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**. The next list will be **June 7, 1993**)*

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

May 3, 1993

Alberta Agriculture your guide to protective clothing

If you need a question about protective clothing answered, Alberta Agriculture has the materials and the people who can help you.

A wide array of self-help information is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. Two of the most complete information guides are a brochure and video says Janice McGregor, district home economist in Lacombe.

The brochure's title asks: "Handling pesticides: Are you protected?" (Homedex 1353-90). Inside it outlines minimum and extra layers of protective clothing with pictures and written details, describes exposure and levels of pesticide toxicity and how to take care of protective clothing and equipment.

"Don't Gamble with Pesticides" is a department produced video about protective clothing. The 18-minute video is available for loan from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. "As well as detailing what to use as protective clothing, this video discusses personal hygiene, levels of toxicity and potential acute and chronic effects of pesticides," notes McGregor.

Alberta Agriculture's "blue book", an annual guide to chemical crop protection, also includes sections on safety precautions and first aid. The guide takes a thorough look at warning symbols, reducing exposure and recommended protective clothing and equipment. It also describes symptoms of poisoning, the poison information telephone numbers and telephone numbers of manufacturers with emergency telephone lines.

As well, McGregor encourages farm families to contact their local district office if they have questions. "District home economists and agriculturists can and do answer many questions and provide advice, from mixing chemicals to laundering protective clothing."

For more complete information, farmers and other members of farm families can take the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program. The program was launched in 1992 and has trained thousands of Alberta farmers about protective clothing and other pesticide safety issues. It teaches how pesticides can affect farmers and their families, the environment, and the weeds, insects and other pests they want to control.

Contact: *Janice McGregor*
782-3301

Washing you and your clothes after pesticide use

While what you wear when handling and applying pesticides is important to how well you are protected, there's one more part to the safety equation says an Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

"Washing you and your protective clothing and equipment is equally important," says Iva Braham the Lamont district home economist.

"Your skin can absorb chemicals from inadequately cleaned clothing and equipment, so the washing routine demands special care," she says. To start, she recommends, taking off protective clothing and equipment outdoors. Also remove pesticide granules from cuffs and pockets while outside.

As well, use nitrile gloves to handle soiled clothing. Discard any garment saturated with a chemical concentrate. For temporary storage before washing, use a plastic bag. To discard any disposable clothing, place in a plastic bag and take to an approved landfill site.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Alberta Agriculture your guide to protective clothing 1

Washing you and your clothes after pesticide use 1

Hussar family, Bow North club conservation winners 2

Conservation an art form 2

Feeding Condor barley has nutrition, cost advantages 3

Horn fly tags will stay, pesticides will change 4

Guide shows farm machinery costs up slightly 4

Currants and gooseberries ideal for small yard

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Even if you're spraying every day for a week, wash your protective clothing daily. That includes protective equipment. This prevents a build-up of pesticide residues and minimizes exposure risk. It's also easier to remove residues if the clothing is washed immediately," she says.

About 80 per cent of farmers who took the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program in 1992 did change their clothing immediately or at the end of the day. As well, 27 per cent of the applicators did the laundering themselves.

Protective clothing should be washed separately from regular laundry. Pre-treat with a stain remover or use a pre-rinse/soak cycle on the washing machine. Use the hot water setting, full water level and a normal cycle plus an extra heavy duty detergent as recommended for heavily soiled clothing. Repeat the wash. When finished, run the empty washer through a full cycle with hot water and detergent.

Line drying is also recommended. This prevents contamination of the dryer and also increases chemical breakdown of any pesticide residue. This practice is also becoming more common.

Equipment such as hard hat, rubber boots, respirator and goggles should be washed daily with hot soapy water and rinsed. Wash both the inside and outside of gloves. Check for small holes, cracks and discoloration. Replace with a new pair if there are any of these signs of degradation.

Personal hygiene is also critical she adds. "You should shower and shampoo your hair after you use pesticides. Washing your hands is also very important. Don't eat, drink, smoke or go to the bathroom unless you've washed your hands thoroughly first."

For more information on protective clothing, laundering pesticide soiled clothing or the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program, contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Iva Braham
895-2219

Hussar family, Bow North club conservation award winners

When a member of the county agricultural service board phoned Robert Filkohazy to ask if his name could stand for a provincial farm family conservation award, Filkohazy's first response was "Are you sure you've got the right person?"

Herbert Kaiser assured Filkohazy that he did. And Kaiser's view was upheld as the Filkohazys of Hussar first were named the south central regional winners and most recently received the 1993 provincial title.

The Conservation Farm Family award is sponsored by the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and the **Western Producer**. Colleen Munro, farm management editor of the Producer, and Bryan Hearn, ACTS past president were on hand to make the official presentations to kick-off National Soil Conservation Week.

The Filkohazys farm 2,240 acres of wheat, malt barley, canola and flax southeast of Hussar. They have co-operated with a number of companies and their local agricultural service board to do field demonstrations of chem fallow. Chem fallow is one of the ways Robert Filkohazy's farming practices have changed.

"For one thing, we use our cultivator a lot less and our sprayer a lot more," he says of their overall farming practices. "Each tillage operation that we do do—it has to be justified according to the impact it will have." They also use a minimum tillage system and have been straight cut combining more. As well, with land that slopes and drains water erosion is a key concern. To prevent erosion problems they have continuously cropped or grassed waterways.

ACTS and the **Western Producer** also make an annual presentation to a producer group for their conservation efforts. The 1993 winner was the Bow North Conservation 2000 Club.

Richard Wagner, club president, accepted the award on behalf of the members. The Bow North club has members from the Indus, Dalemead, Carseland and Strathmore areas. Founded in 1991, the club has a membership of 16 and is still growing says Wagner.

The Bow North club is the second Conservation 2000 club to be honored with the provincial award. The Alberta Wheat Pool's Conservation 2000 program itself also was recognized for industry leadership by ACTS. Promoting soil conservation awareness is the main focus of the clubs. The Conservation 2000 program provides support to clubs getting started and offers a regular newsletter, an annual Practical Tips Booklet and other publications.

There are about 40 Conservation 2000 clubs across the province. For more information on the clubs, contact program co-ordinator Joanne Meents in Calgary at 290-4648 or 1-800-332-1416.

Contact:	*Russ Evans* *936-5306* *Joanne Meents* *290-4648*	*Robert Filkohazy* *641-2480*

Conservation an art form

Artists' visions of the province's shared landscape were a focal point for spreading the message of National Soil Conservation Week in Alberta.

As part of kick-off ceremonies for the national awareness week artists of all ages, in two different competitions, were honored in Calgary.

Daphne Stankievech of Trochu was the winner of the first annual agriculture and wildlife shared landscapes art competition sponsored by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and its partners, including Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Interested in art since her childhood, Stankievech studied to hone her talent and now teaches others. Born in Victoria, she has lived

Cont'd on page 3

nearly all her life in Alberta. She says she paints and draw the subjects she knows best including old buildings, the prairie and its people and ranchlands.

Stankievech received a $1,000 cheque for her oil painting "Sharing for All". The painting features a pond in the foreground where both deer and cattle are watering. The background has a farm and tree-lined fields with ducks flying overhead. The painting will be reproduced as a limited edition print and used by NAWMP as an awareness tool.

Ken Gurr, the Alberta NAWMP Centre's communication specialist, made the presentation to Stankievich. He says the shared landscape art competition will likely become annual.

Gurr along with the competition organizers were overwhelmed with the number of entries received in the contest open to all Alberta artists, both professional and amateur.

"We received 110 entries with not a lot of lead time," notes Barb Shackel, awareness specialist with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"While the competition was successful from an organizational standpoint it was also more," she adds. "Alberta artists obviously have a feel for the interconnection between agriculture and wildlife. Their interpretations are from the heart and capture the spirit of conservation, farming and wildlife in a very real way."

The juried competition was judged by two art professors from the University of Calgary and a conservation farmer. They selected the winner plus three honorable mentions. Honorable mentions went to Doris Sims of Lacombe, Ross Fielding of Myrnam and Anne Kupin of Vermilion.

The juried exhibit was on display at Calgary's Bow Valley Square through most of April.

As well, the four finalists and winner of the fourth provincial National Soil Conservation Week poster contest were recognized at the awareness week kick-off.

Two of the finalists, Chris Rourke of Cold Lake and Glen Van Bussel of Strathmore were on hand to receive their prizes. Wainwright MLA Butch Fischer, representing agriculture minister Ernie Isley, presented each with a $25 cheque. The contest winner Carla Dowhaniuk of Strathmore will receive $50. The other finalist was Barbara Waldner of Rockyford.

As well, Bryan Hearn, representing a contest co-sponsor, the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), presented the winners with a book by Grant MacEwan. The other sponsors are Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch and the Ag in the Classroom program, and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

"We again received more than 750 entries from across the whole province," says Shackel of the contest. One of the many soil conservation education projects carried out by the department, the contest is open to students in grade four through six.

"Choosing four finalists was a very difficult decision for the judges. All of those hundreds of entries reflected that the students had a good understanding of the importance of conserving soil as a basic resource," she adds.

Shackel also notes that the four finalists are from schools and areas that have participated in the contest and also had winners in previous years. "The County of Wheatland actively promoted the contest in area schools. As it turned out, three of the finalists were from that county. Two years ago one of the poster finalists was from Nelson Heights School in Cold Lake, and now again this year."

Contact:	*Barb Shackel*	*Donna Fleury*
	422-4385	*948-8549*
	Ken Gurr	
	454-0882	

Feeding Condor barley has nutrition, cost advantages

Two recent studies delivered more good news about the feed value of Condor hulless barley say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

"Condor has a feeding value similar to high protein, good quality hard red spring wheat," says Sam Jaikaran, a monogastric nutritionist.

Two University of Alberta researchers studied energy and protein digestibility of the hulless barley variety in swine diets. Their results showed Condor, with a crude protein of just over 14 per cent, had a protein digestibility of 88.5 per cent. Condor's digestible energy (DE) was eight per cent higher than the DE value for wheat and was about equal to corn.

"More simply, they found Condor is a high energy, high protein, high lysine feed with high digestibilities of all of these," says Jaikaran.

Feeding trials at the university's Swine Research Unit with analyses of feed intake, growth rate and feed conversion showed Condor is very suitable for feeding weaner pigs. As well, on-farm demonstration trails have shown this barley to be excellent for market hogs.

Another advantage with Condor is economic savings says Murray McLelland, supervisor of cereal crops at the Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe. "Replacing wheat with Condor barley can save a producer money because this barley has a higher DE level and a similar digestible protein."

"If producers do use Condor barley they should keep hulls to a minimum," notes Jaikaran. Hulls dilute the nutritional value and the added fibre reduces digestibility of both energy and protein.

Hulless barley varieties do have hulls, however they are held loosely on the kernel similar to wheat. Hulls are held more tightly on traditional barley varieties. Hulls can be removed easily from hulless varieties, but the percentage of hulls removed depends on combine settings when the crop is harvested.

"For feeding, the advice from the study is to thresh Condor barley as clean as possible," he says.

Cont'd on page 4

Jaikaran also notes another advantage of Condor is reduced manure disposal costs. "When Condor is used instead of regular barley, the volume of solid manure waste decreases with the lower fibre. So, manure pits are easier to clean and drain." Because the hulless barley has less fibre, undigested fibre in manure per market pig can drop from 18 kg to four kg.

Another study of Condor was done with commercial poultry. "Results here showed that birds fed Condor barley performed as well, or better, than the birds fed the commercial feeds," says McLelland. As well, birds fed Condor had significantly less body fat than the wheat-fed broilers.

"If hulless barley can be purchased for the same price as wheat, there is an economic advantage for the poultry feeder," adds McLelland. "This is because the higher energy and amino acid content in Condor requires less soybean meal and tallow be added to the feed." Prices at the time of the study added up to a savings of two cents per bird.

Research reports and data from the Condor barley feeding studies are available from Jaikaran in Edmonton by calling 427-8906.

Contact: Sam Jaikaran Murray McLelland
427-8906 782-4641

Horn fly tags will stay, pesticides will change

The problem of horn fly resistance isn't something new says an Alberta Agriculture livestock control specialist.

"Some people are fearful horn fly resistance to some insecticide ear tags is threatening a convenient and popular control method here in Alberta," says Ali Khan, "Resistance to a particular insecticide has happened before." There have been four instances of horn fly resistance to insecticides he notes. The first was in 1960 to toxaphene. That was followed by resistance to Fenchlorphos in 1962, in 1980 to striophos and in 1983 to synthetic pyrethroids in the southeastern U.S.

The latter resistance has now appeared on the Canadian Prairies he says. In 1992 there were reported cases of insecticide tag failure from Czar, Provost and Irricana areas. The resistance confirmed was to tags with synthetic pyrethroids as their active ingredient.

"One way this problem has been resolved was through developing new insecticides. So, the ear tag method remains while the compounds in the pesticide change," he says.

"We see that happening again already," he adds. This summer two new insecticide tags are available for producer use. Tetrachlorvinphos (ECTOGARD) and Diazinon (PROTECTOR) have been registered.

"If you're concerned about insecticide resistance, the best pest management strategy is to alternate the insecticides that you use," he says. "Prolonged use of the same type of tag for five to seven years increases the risk resistance will develop.

"While alternating the type of tag is one choice, you can also alternate using the ear tags with oilers, dust bags, pour-on pesticides and sprays," he adds.

Khan also has other recommendations to delay the spread of horn fly resistance. He suggests tagging animals later, in mid May when the flies begin to appear. As well, remove old tags at the end of the season.

Horn flies are one of the most abundant and irritating flies to cattle. They stay with the animal day and night. They feed frequently, up to 17 times during a 24-hour period.

Horn flies have been around in Canada for at least 100 years. They were first recorded at an Ontario Agricultural Experiment Station in 1893.

Contact: Ali Khan
427-5083

Guide shows farm machinery costs up slightly

Most farm machinery costs will be slightly higher in 1993 says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Two of the main reasons for the increase are the low Canadian dollar and a Revenue Canada tax credit," says David Thacker of the farm business management branch in Olds.

"Interest rates remain relatively unchanged from 1992 and weren't a major factor. However, since most machinery is imported from the United States, the devalued Canadian dollar is a big factor in rising costs. Also, the new Revenue Canada 10 per cent investment tax credit contributed to somewhat higher farm machinery retail prices," he adds.

The 1993 edition of "Farm machinery costs as a guide to custom rates" (Agdex 825-4) has complete information on the costs of owning and operating farm machinery. The guide was recently released by the provincial agriculture department.

The publication provides information about current machinery prices, repair rates, performance, capacity and fuel consumption. The information is organized into fixed and variable costs. Custom rates summaries from 1992 have also been included for comparison.

"This information is helpful as a basis for budgeting, and for determining what to charge for custom work," notes Thacker.

The guide includes machinery costs for tractors, combines, farm trucks, tillage, seeding, spraying, baling and forage equipment. The costs of grinders, mixers, dryers and rock pickers are also provided.

"Worksheets are provided in the guide so you can calculate your own machinery costs," adds Thacker.

The machinery cost survey was conducted by Cal Ausenhus and compiled for publication by Thacker. Additional information was provided by the department's statistics branch.

Cont'd on page 5

The guide is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices, or by writing the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Alberta Agriculture has published information on the costs of owning and operating farm machinery annually since 1975.

Contact: David Thacker
556-4247

Currants and gooseberries ideal for small yard

If you have a small yard and still want to have a fruit-bearing shrub, currants and gooseberries may be the answer says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Currants and gooseberries can be grown throughout Alberta," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre in Brooks.

An ideal planting site has a cool, moist soil. A well-drained, heavy clay loam soil is best. "If your soil is sandy, blend peat moss or well-rotted manure into the soil before you plant," she says. As well, it's important to summerfallow the site for a season before planting. "This helps to free the site from perennial weeds and to incorporate the organic matter," she adds.

Currants and gooseberries can be purchased either bare root or in pots. "Whatever type you buy, plant only disease-free stock," emphasizes Barkley.

Plants in pots can be planted anytime during the growing season. Bare rooted plants are planted in the spring.

Red, black and white currants, and gooseberries can be set in rows 1.5 m apart. Albol or Golden currant plants need to be further apart, about 2 m.

Before plants blossom in the spring, spread 150 g of 11-48-0 fertilizer under the branches and for about 30 cm beyond each plant. "Incorporate the fertilizer into the top few inches of the soil with a hoe," she says.

"For weed control, use shallow cultivation to avoid root damage and suckering," she adds.

Red, white and Albol currants, as well as gooseberries, bear their fruit on two to three year-old wood. "This is important to keep in mind when you prune. The spring after planting remove weaker shoots. Leave no more than six of the strongest first-year shoots," she recommends.

In the third spring, again leave six first-year shoots, three two-year-old shoots and three one-year-old shoots. In the fourth year, leave nine shoots. Three each of one-year, two-year and three-year-old shoots.

"The aim of pruning this way is to have vigorous young shoots coming in to replace wood older than three years old. In subsequent years, remove the wood older than three years," Barkley says.

Black currants on the other hand bear most of their fruit on their previous season's growth, the one-year-old wood. "In this case, it's best to maintain about eight fruiting canes," she says. "Some pruning may be necessary to shape the bush and limit the number of main branches to six or eight."

Each spring, leave three or four two-year-old canes and six from the previous season. "Avoid heading back black currants as this cuts down the fruit production," she adds.

Barkley also advises, since each currant or gooseberry plant is an individual, the exact number of shoots left vary according to each plant's vigor. "You will probably have to make some adjustments between theory and practice."

With small harvests in their second and third year, gooseberries bear their first major crop in their fourth season. Harvest the berries for jelly-making when the fruit is slightly green. For preserving, pick when the berries are ripe, or nearly ripe. Two or three pickings will be necessary because the berries ripen unevenly.

Red and white currants are ripe as soon as they have a clear color. "It's best to pick the whole cluster to avoid injuring the fruit," says Barkley. "Pick black currants as they ripen, but before they shrivel and fall."

For more information, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391 or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Alberta Dairy Congress June 3-6

Milk spells quality is the theme of the Alberta Dairy Congress June 3 through 5 at the Black Gold Centre in Leduc. Added to this year's congress is a Jersey show to compliment the Holstein show. A panel on animal welfare and a speaker on the "the designer cow" are two highlights from the educational side of the congress. Other features include a provincial judging school, farm tours, trade show and results of the annual forage competition. For more information contact the congress office at 986-8108.

Agricultural workshop for lenders May 31 through June 4

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch and Olds College extension services are again offering a five-day education seminar for bank managers and credit officers. The agricultural workshop for lenders has been designed to familiarize lenders with current agricultural production and marketing techniques, and practices that affect the success of major farm enterprises in Alberta. The course includes farm tours as well as specific looks at crop marketing, oilseed and cereal crops, cow/calf production, feeder cows, dairy economics and production, hog production, specialty game farming and whole farm management. The registration deadline is May 14. Early registration is advised as enrolment is limited. For more information, contact Trish Pannell or David Thacker in Olds at 556-4240.

Poultry open house at University of Alberta May 27

The University of Alberta's Edmonton research station will hold its annual open house May 27 between noon and 5:30 p.m. Open House'93 will feature poultry. Activities will include tours of the research centre, demonstration of techniques, looks at on-going research projects, talks directed to producer interests and poster presentations of research results. Visitors can also meet the university's "poultry people". The research station is located at 60 Avenue and 115 Street in Edmonton. For more information, contact Frank Robinson at 492-3234.

Rocky View students plant 5,800 trees for Soil Conservation Week

Students in the Municipal District of Rocky View near Calgary celebrated National Soil Conservation Week in a unique way—they planted trees. Students in kindergarten through grade six in the school division each received a white spruce seedling to plant during the national awareness week April 19 through 26. Bob Anderson, chair of the Rocky View Agricultural Service Board, officially announced the program at a special kick-off event for National Soil Conservation Week in Calgary. Seedlings were distributed the same day, April 19, the first day of the awareness week. The "Trees, conservation and you" project was aimed at students understanding planting trees, even one tree, has many benefits from agronomic through environmental, recreational, esthetic and economic. The project planting partners were the Municipal District of Rocky View and school students, Tree Plan Canada (funded by the federal Green Plan) and the grower/suppliers Brenray Gardens of Cremona. For more information, contact Tim Dietlzer, Rocky View agricultural fieldman, at 230-1401 in Calgary.

International land management workshop coming to Lethbridge June 20

Canada, Alberta and the University of Lethbridge are hosting an international workshop on sustainable land management June 20 through 26. This second International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management for the 21st Century is aimed at ensuring the quality of the world's land base is secured for future food production and enhanced environmental quality. More than 200 delegates are expected to attend presentations by experts from around the globe. Sessions will include topics related to preserving soil for all uses—agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat and recreation—and more specifically at soil quality, nutrient management, water quality, biological diversity, plant protection, agroforestry, climate change, intensive cropping and livestock management. The first workshop was held in Thailand in September 1991. For more information, contact Dr. Julian Dumanski in Ottawa at (613)995-5011 (extension 7855), or Cindy LaValley, co-ordinator of the organizing committee, in Lethbridge at 329-2244.

Phone. (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

MAY 11 199

May 10, 1993

Agriculture and Food Industry Council members selected

A newly formed Agriculture and Food Industry Council is scheduled to meet for the first time on May 27 to take up the challenge of encouraging the agriculture and food industry create a better tomorrow.

Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister, announced the council's formation and membership last week (May 3) and that the council will work toward implementing the strategies and action plans identified during the Creating Tomorrow consultation process.

"Creating Tomorrow has taken another significant step forward with the establishment of this council," says Isley. "With the council's guidance and leadership, our industry and government will find ways to build upon the Creating Tomorrow blueprint.

"The council will be self funded," he adds. "That means the members work for and are accountable to the industry not government. To maintain complete independence, they will pay their own way to participate in council meetings and activities. The council will receive administrative support from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development."

Creating Tomorrow was an agriculture and food industry consultation process held in 1992 and early 1993. Over 2,000 people participated in the 14 public meetings and wind-up conference. The consultation results include a shared industry-government vision and goals for Alberta's agriculture and food industry, and strategies and actions on how to reach those goals.

At the concluding Red Deer conference, Isley announced he would facilitate establishing a council, if Creating Tomorrow participants and industry organizations wanted such a council.

"My office received 125 nominations of very qualified people," says Isley. "That made selection of only 23 council members very tough." (A list of members follows on page 8.)

Selection criteria required council members represent a broad cross section of the food, supply and service, and primary agriculture sectors. The new council members also represent the interests of a variety of geographical locations and possess demonstrated skills in leadership, teamwork and in managing change.

A group of industry and government representatives reviewed the nominations and made recommendations to Isley, who was pleased to accept their recommendations as received. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development staff facilitated the neutral, objective process to select council members.

The group who reviewed the nominations included highly respected individuals from industry and government who possess a solid knowledge of the industry and Creating Tomorrow.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2137	*427-2145*

Gibbons 4-Her receives Premiers' Award

A 17-year-old high school student from Gibbons is the 1993 recipient of the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor.

Wendy Williams was chosen as the Premiers' Award winner at a weekend of personal development and group interaction from

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Agriculture and Food Industry Council members selected 1

Gibbons 4-Her receives Premiers' Award 1

Protective clothing the right stuff 2

Line dry after washing protective clothing 3

Cattle prices seem susceptible to setback 3

More peas and creeping red fescue in '93? 3

Weather factor in volatile canola market 4

Milk is where it's at at Alberta Dairy Congress 4

Local development bond pilot projects announced 5

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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among 128 of the province's top 4-H members.

During the annual three-day provincial 4-H Selections program in Olds, delegates participate in activities designed to improve leadership and life skills. This year's theme was "exploring your potential".

Williams was chosen from nine other finalists known as the "ambassador group". The 1993 group includes: Shari Bagozzi, Vulcan; Janice Feenstra, Vermilion; Aaron Grant, Olds; Angela Habberfield, Crossfield; Kim Hadwin, Consort; Karen Kotke, Fort Macleod; Chad Ramsay, Bluffton; Penny Steffen, Grimshaw; and, Tammy Young, Camrose.

Williams says she was excited to be named recipient of the 29th annual award. "It is a great honor to represent Alberta 4-H," she says. As one of her responsibilities she will represent Alberta this summer in the Royal Bank Interprovincial Exchange and travel to Newfoundland.

For the last eight years Williams has been an active member of the Gibbons 4-H Sew & Sos 4-H Club. As well as holding executive positions in her club, she has participated in a number of regional and provincial 4-H activities. Williams is also involved in Ukrainian dancing and various high school committees.

Williams succeeds Leanna Eaton of Ardrossan who was the 1992 recipient. Roy Brassard, Olds-Didsbury MLA, presented the award trophy to Williams on behalf of Premier Ralph Klein. The official award presentation will be made later by the premier.

Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister, also attended the awards breakfast. He extended greetings and congratulations to the participants and award recipients on behalf of the premier and the Alberta government. He also recognized the many sponsors of the 4-H program.

Trip awards to 55 delegates were also announced at the concluding awards breakfast. The 4-H members chosen for these trips will represent Alberta at major educational programs and tours throughout Canada and the United States over the next 12 months.

Organized by the home economics and 4-H branch, the 4-H Selections program is sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Contact: Wendy Williams Marguerite Stark
942-2143 948-8510

Protective clothing the right stuff

Modern farmers, like any other workers, wear clothing suitable for the job they're doing says an Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

"When the job is handling and applying pesticides to protect crops from weeds or insects, it's especially important that the clothing and equipment you wear must **protect you**," says Rita Scobie who serves the County of Vulcan.

Protective clothing acts as a barrier to skin absorption of pesticides. Equipment protects other parts of the body. For example, a respirator prevents breathing in a pesticide.

The first layer of protection is a long sleeved shirt and long pants or jeans. Cover these with cloth or disposable coveralls. "Some people wear both for extra protection," she adds. "The disposable coverall has an extra benefit with its hood. This protects your head and makes the coveralls fit better."

Unlined nitrile gloves that fit properly are another critical part of the protective clothing equation. "A pat on the back to chemical companies and dealers who supply gloves," she says. "However, if your hands are larger or smaller than the free gloves, the fit might not be good enough to allow you to do fine work such as adjusting nozzles. Check a farm supply or safety equipment store to get gloves that fit right."

High rubber boots or neoprene over boots are another must. Wear pants outside the boots so a spill doesn't run down the inside of the boot.

A hard hat is the final piece of basic protection. "This keeps spray off your head. A hard hat is also easy to clean with soap and water," she says.

"A cloth baseball cap is on the list of what not to wear. The cloth absorbs chemicals and keeps the chemical residues close to you—and your vulnerable forehead—long after the spraying season is over," she adds. "This also applies to anything else made from fabric or leather including shoes, boots, belts and watchbands because they are difficult to clean and can be a continual source of contamination. As well, don't wear natural rubber or plastic gloves because they break down quickly. And, take out your contact lenses because they are nearly impossible to clean."

When handling concentrated or more toxic pesticides extra protection is needed. This extra protection includes a waterproof apron, goggles, ear plugs and a respirator.

"Check the label of the pesticides you're going to use. The label will give you information about whether a respirator and other extra protection is recommended," says Scobie.

"We also recommend you start with clean clothes every day, and that you take the protective clothing off immediately after you finish spraying for the day," she adds. These clothes should be stored in a plastic bag away from the family's regular laundry. "It's ideal if you wash your protective clothing every day to minimize your exposure. And be sure to always wash the protective clothing separate from the family's clothes."

For more information on the basics of protective clothing, laundering recommendations or the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Rita Scobie
485-2236

Line dry after washing protective clothing

If you want to prevent possible contamination of your drier, line drying protective clothing is the only way to go says an Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

"Line drying serves a dual purpose," says Diane Luke, the district home economist in High River. "The first is that you avoid contaminating your drier with any residues that might remain in drier drum after washing pesticide soiled clothing.

"The second benefit is chemical break down increases when clothes are line dried. Ultra violet light from the sun helps break down any residues that might be left after washing protective clothing she adds.

Laudering practices are the final link in farm pesticide safety, but are still a weak link in how farmers protect themselves and their families from exposure to pesticides. A general survey in 1991 and a more specific one aimed at farmers who had taken the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program in 1992, indicate farmers are wearing more protective clothing. Those numbers increase significantly after the person takes the certificate program.

In the 1992 survey, 36 per cent said they line dried protective clothing after they were washed. That compares to 30 per cent in a 1991 survey and is double the number in a 1984 survey.

Protective clothing worn for handling and applying pesticides should be washed every day Luke adds, and whoever does the washing should wear nitrile gloves when handling the pesticide soiled clothing.

Start laundering by pre-treating with a stain remover if an emulsified formulation is used. Use hot water, the full water level and the normal cycle on the washing machine. Wash each load twice. Use the recommended amount of heavy duty detergent for heavily soiled loads plus extra detergent. Line dry the clothing. Also, run the washer through another cycle with detergent to thoroughly clean it.

For more information on protective clothing or the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: *Diane Luke*
652-8300

Cattle prices seem susceptible to setback

Both fed and feeder cattle prices could be heading down this summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Seasonal increases in both slaughter weights and volumes are anticipated in the U.S. during May and June. "This should pressure fed cattle prices lower," says Ron Gietz.

"Feedlot operators, however," he adds, "may resist this downwards price trend and that could lead to jerky movement to lower prices."

In Western Canada, fed cattle marketings have already increased seasonally. Increased local supplies have widened the Canada-U.S. price spread slightly.

Gietz forecasts monthly average prices for Alberta Direct Steers at $92/cwt. in May, dropping to $88 in June and $86 in July. Estimates are based on a Canadian dollar valued at 80 cents U.S. Recent developments in the currency markets, he adds, may make these forecasts a little on the pessimistic side.

"Despite the likelihood of a large price drop in the fed cattle market, I find it hard to be negative about heavy feeder price prospects this summer," he adds.

In four out of the last five years, heavy feeder cattle prices have averaged higher in the summer (July through September quarter) than in the spring (April through June quarter). As well, overall seasonal price swings have been much smaller in the heavy feeder market than in the fed cattle market. Good quality "short-keep" steers or heifers appear to be in demand at almost any time of the year.

"There is the caution that at their current lofty levels feeder cattle prices seem susceptible to a setback," Gietz says. "Recent history suggests feedlot buyers won't step away from this market until they begin losing money. That is possible this summer.

"In balance, I expect heavy feeder cattle prices about three to five dollars per hundredweight below current levels by late summer."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

More peas and creeping red fescue in '93?

Alberta farmers may be planning to seed more peas and creeping red fescue this year.

"This increase isn't surprising given that both field pea and fescue prices have been at attractive levels for much of 1992-93 crop year," says Al Dooley, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"In the early winter, when farmers were answering the survey, these crops looked like obvious choices for acreage increases," he adds. "But, recent lower prices might temper farmers' enthusiasm."

The survey put green and yellow pea acreages up by 14 and 25 per cent respectively. In acreage terms that translates to 193,116 acres of green peas and 63,250 acres of yellow peas. Red fescue acreage is listed at an estimated 90,000 acres, up by 20 per cent.

The figures are from an annual survey of the province's special crop producers by the department's market analysis and statistics branch. About 1,500 producers, or 39 per cent of producers who reported growing miscellaneous crops in their Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) permit books, returned the survey.

Survey information should be used with caution says Dooley. "One reason is because it was conducted in early winter. Markets have changed and farmers might have changed their minds

Cont'd on page 4

about the potential profits from a particular crop. As well, the survey only reflects the intentions of experienced growers. Those who have never grown special crops aren't in the survey sample."

Dooley says the dry bean estimate from the survey is likely too low. Survey results put that at 33,320 acres in 1993. "Based on reports about contracting that has already occurred, 40,000 acres is likely a more accurate figure," he says.

"Except for the 27 per cent forecast drop in sunflower area, most of the other estimates aren't surprising," Dooley adds.

Contact: Al Dooley
427-5387

Weather factor in volatile canola market

Any producers with canola still in their bins or in storage face an extremely volatile current market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"With the relatively tight stocks of number one and two canola, weather will be more of a factor this year," says Larry Ruud.

Ruud says premiums in some areas have pushed local prices to seven dollars per bushel, even though canola futures were around $335 per tonne. "If you have crop in the bin, rallies into this range should be a sell signal."

"Temporary premiums of up to $10 per tonne were being offered in some areas of the province as companies worked to cover their contracts," he notes.

New crop futures have been flat around $310 per tonne he adds. "Until acreage estimates are firm and the crop starts to develop, fall contracts won't find a direction. But weather problem s could push prices up."

A price drop was what came in late April. Ruud gives three reasons for the drop of nearly $25 per tonne. Visible supplies in the system are up over last year. "With cash prices near seven dollars per bushel, a lot of canola was drawn out of bins," he says.

Second, some people in the trade expect exports to Japan to back off until the 1993 crop starts coming off. Japan has been actively pursuing other supply sources.

Finally, the U.S. oilseed market has also dropped. Heavy commercial fund selling went on the same time as the drop in the Canadian market. "As well, further planting delays for the 1993 corn crop will mean more soybeans seeded this spring in the U.S.," he adds.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Milk is where it's at at Alberta Dairy Congress

Urban Albertans can really find out where milk comes from through tours of Leduc area dairy farms as part of the annual Alberta Dairy Congress Holstein and Jersey Show June 3 through 5.

"Farm tours have always been part of this event, but last year the focus switched from producers to the general public," says Fern Richardson, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Leduc.

The public can pick up maps from the congress at the Black Gold Centre in Leduc and then go on self-guided tours she says. "As organizers we're hoping that school children, who will be on tours during the two opening days, will get their parents to come out on Saturday."

All the regular line-up of conference activities will continue. This includes a trade show, educational seminars, results from the forage competition and dairy cattle shows. "One of the new features for 1993 is a Jersey show to go along with the Holstein show," notes Richardson.

The educational sides features an animal welfare panel. The panellists are: Joe Zink, a dairy producer from Cochrane; Joe Stockey, a professor at the Western College of Veterinarian Medicine in Saskatoon; and, Joy Ripley, of the Alberta Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). The panel will be on the opening day of the congress, June 3.

During the second day, Ted Burnside will tell interested people about "the designer cow". Burnside is an animal health professor at the University of Guelph.

"The congress also has a number of fun and not so serious activities," adds Richardson. "For example, a milk drinking contest pits a team of high school students against exhibitors and congress organizers to see who can down a litre of milk the fastest."

There are also contests of strength and skill, a bale tossing contest and determining the "king and queen" of the wagon back-up. Participants will have to back a tractor and wagon between pylons.

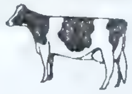
Among the other features of the congress are free pancake breakfasts each morning, a fashion show, "kowlua" social on the Thursday evening and a provincial judging school.

The theme of the seventh annual congress is "milk spells quality". For more information, contact the congress office in Leduc at 986-8108 or the Alberta Agriculture district office at 986-8985.

Contact: Fern Richardson
986-8985

See You At The

ALBERTA
DAIRY
CONGRESS



June 3,4,5 1993
Leduc, Alberta

Local development bond pilot projects announced

Three pilot projects for Local Development Bonds will go ahead with help from the Alberta government.

The project was announced by Premier Ralph Klein, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister Ernie Isley and Tourism Minister Don Sparrow. The concept was outlined by Klein in an economic strategy to the Legislature in late April.

The three pilot projects will be selected from applications submitted over the next several months. An effort will be made to distribute the pilot projects across Alberta, but the most viable projects will receive the highest priority.

Local Development Bonds will encourage local participation, decision making and investment in local economic development projects. These bonds will be a vehicle for local communities to pool capital to invest in local development projects. Investors will receive bond security, between 80 and 100 per cent of their principal investment, depending on the level of equity in the business. Income from the bond will depend on the success of the business in which it is invested.

"These bonds will encourage Albertans to invest in their own communities," says Klein. "Local people will make decisions about investing their own money in businesses that build on the strengths of the people and resources within the community."

Interested investors or communities are encouraged to join together to identify appropriate investment opportunities. The bonds will provide a new source of investment capital to small business entrepreneurs.

"Our future economic prosperity must be community-driven, not government-driven," says Isley. Sparrow agrees and says, "This looks like an excellent way for Albertans to get directly involved in creating economic growth in their own local area."

The idea for the bonds came from the Local Development Initiative, which conducted approximately two dozen public forums. Nearly 800 community leaders from more than 250 Alberta communities voiced thier views and ideas in the process.

The program will be administered by the Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation (ADC) and the Alberta Opportunity Company (AOC). They will review project viability in partnership with local investors. A "risk insurance fund" will be set up with contributions from fees charged to the projects.

Pilot projects will be limited to a maximum of $1 million each.

Premier Klein has also instructed Isley to look at the feasibility of using tax incentives to promote community developments. The lessons learned from the pilot projects, as well as ideas provided by interested local communities, will form the basis for recommendations Isley will make to the premier.

"The pilot project is the best way to see if we should make a full commitment to a local development bond," says Isley.

More information and guidelines will be available soon through ADC and AOC. Initial inquiries can be made to the ADC head office in Camrose at 679-1319.

Contact: *Bob Splane, ADC* *J.R. Anderson, AOC*
679-1302 *783-7030*
Dwight Dibben
427-2137

Agri-News briefs

Calling outdated animal medication for Great Drug Roundup

An unidentified bottle of a prescription liquid dispensed to a producer in July 1957 and a quantity of an antibiotic banned for use on food producing animals in 1985 were among the over three tonnes of unused and outdated animal medication veterinary clinics received in 1992 during the provincial drug round-up. Veterinarians are again joining pharmacists for Alberta's Great Drug Round-up during the month of May. This is the second year veterinarians have joined in the campaign to ensure proper disposal of unused medications and to reduce the threat and incidents of poisonings. "Pet and animal owners seem reluctant to part with medication for their animals no matter how old it is," says veterinarian George Long. "Cost is certainly a factor, and it's sometimes hard to justify disposing of medication when it just might be needed again. But, animal owners are advised that any outdated medication can be dangerous and ineffective to both animals and humans." The provincial total for all human and animal medications collected in 1992 was 33 tonnes. For more information, contact Harry Dornn, communications officer with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association in Edmonton, at 489-5007.

Ethanol policy announced

Alberta's provincial government has announced it will guarantee assistance for developing an ethanol industry in the province. The increased use of ethanol in gasoline will provide expanded markets for Alberta grains, as well as encourage construction and operation of ethanol production facilities in rural Alberta. Ethanol use will also reduce some pollutants commonly associated with gasoline use. Among the assistance is a five-year guarantee on existing benefits such as ethanol's exclusion from the nine cent per litre Alberta fuel tax. As well, the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset program will be extended to feedgrains used for ethanol production. This benefit will remain in place until the method of payment is changed. The offset payment is $10 per tonne and provides an additional three cents per litre incentive for ethanol production. This initiative was included in Premier Ralph Klein's economic strategy report to the provincial legislature. For more details contact Butch Fischer, standing policy committee on agriculture and rural development chair, at 427-3020 or C.D. Radke, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development deputy minister, at 427-2145.

Old crop lamb overhang makes market volatile

A current supply overhang of heavy old crop lambs in the U.S. is likely to make markets very volatile for the next few months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "The good news is that producers should keep in mind that the long term outlook for lamb markets continues to be very positive," says Jo Ann Sandhu. "Sooner or later, this temporary surplus in the U.S. will be gone." A record low lamb crop is likely in the U.S. this year she adds. "This will result in tightening lamb supplies late in the summer with prices responding accordingly." For more information, contact Sandhu in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Barley exports bleak, oats on pace

An internationally competitive feedgrain market with lots of corn and feed wheat adds up to a bleak export picture for Canadian barley says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Barley exports to Russia, China and Saudi Arabia are off this year. Exports to Japan are up slightly," notes Larry Ruud. On the other hand, exports continue to be up in the oat market. "Exports have already increased by 111 per cent over last year," he says. "The U.S. has been our primary market. Shipments have also been made to Japan, Belgium, South Korea and a few other countries." Strong export and domestic markets have kept prices for milling and racetrack oats in the $100 to $113 per tonne range. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

International market still discounting wheat prices

With world production expected to increase, the international market continues to discount wheat prices into the next crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. The ability of importers to pay for their wheat has weighed on prices and will continue to be a factor. "The Russian credit problem has been the most notable," says Larry Ruud. "Canada resumed shipments to Russia early last month and that was good news for our producers." Ruud adds he feels the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) estimated pool returns are in line with the international market. The estimated return for #1 CWRS was set at $148 per tonne. "The surprise in the figures was the estimate for feed wheat at $109 per tonne. The CWB must have been able to sell a good percentage of feed wheat into offshore milling markets." For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Hog prices likely at almost equal five year average

Average producer payment prices for Index 100 hogs in Alberta will likely be almost equal to the five year average says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Ron Gietz is forecasting May prices at $1.45/kg (dressed), June at $1.55 and then dropping to $1.50 in July. "Most analysts anticipate Canadian hog markets will continue to benefit from a favorable exchange rate with the U.S.," he says. "However, Alberta prices are currently reduced by an estimated two to three cents per kilogram as a result of cut back slaughter volumes in Alberta packing plants, necessitating the export of live hogs." Gietz adds it's impossible to predict how long this situation will continue. He notes the U.S. market is likely to have a season rally in June, but the fall outlook is for significantly lower U.S. prices. "The likely range is low $40/cwt., but there's a distinct possibility of prices going below $40." For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Some forage seed exports better than expected

Fescue and timothy seed exports over the first half of the 1992-93 crop year have been better than expected says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Fescue exports between July and December 1992 totalled 6.5 million kg, up from 5.8 million kg in the previous year. "Although new sales have been slow, it seems shipments on earlier sales commitments have been good," says Al Dooley. Export shipments of timothy seed over the first half of the crop year have also been greater than expected. Clover and alfalfa seed exports haven't kept pace with the 1991-92 figures. "Alfalfa seed in particular has been slow to move out of Canada. The 1992-93 figures to December were just over half of that shipped for the comparable period a year earlier," he says. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

AARI annual report distributed

To decrease publication costs, the mailing list for the 1991-92 annual report of the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute (AARI) has been reduced. Copies of the report were distributed to all Alberta Agriculture district offices and regional department libraries. The report can also be found in main public, university and government libraries throughout Alberta. AARI is Alberta's leading agency for co-ordinating and funding agricultural research. In addition to presenting AARI's financial statements, the report highlights important agricultural research and technology transfer supported by the institute between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 1992. Anyone interested in the report should contact their local district agriculturist or library. A limited number of copies are available by request. Write: Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, #202, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. For more information, contact Patrick Marce in Edmonton at 427-1956.

AFPA annual meeting/conference May 20

Successful marketing and Canada's economic future are two of the highlight topics at the Alberta Food Processors Association's annual meeting and conference May 20 in Edmonton. Management consultant Rick Andrews will describe the 22 steps for success in domestic and export marketing during a morning session. Frank Stonach, of Magna International, will look at Canada's economic future as a boom or bust. The association's business meeting is in the morning and lunch will include an introduction of new association directors and remarks from the new association chair. Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton is the site for the conference. For more information, contact Joan Forge at AFPA in Edmonton at 444-2272.

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Grant Altwasser, Brooks	General manager, Lakeside Farm Industries
Starr Bulmer, Berwyn	Reeve Peace District 135; cattle/grain farmer
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Ron Leonhardt, Drumheller	Grains and oilseeds farmer; VP Unifarm;
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Ardi Talsma, Blackfalds	egg producer, member Alberta Farm Women's Network
Dr. Ed Tyrchniewicz, Edmonton	Dean, faculty of Agriculture, Foresty and Home Economics University of Alberta
Henry Van Zeggelaar, Edmonton	general manager Lilydale; president Canadian Poultry and Egg Producers Council
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Ian Wood, Taber	irrigation farmer; director Alberta Vegetable Growers' Marketing Board
Betty Young, Edmonton	VP marketing and sales, Wing's Food; board member AFPA

**designates member of the Creating Tomorrow industry advisory group*

Phone. (403) 42[illegible]

AGRI-NEWS

May 17, 1993

CANADIANA

JUN - 1 1993

Protective clothing critical because of absorption rates

Talk about absorption rates may sound like it belongs in a commercial for diapers or paper towels, but not when the term is used in relation to handling and applying pesticides.

"Different parts of your body have different absorption rates and that's why there are specific recommendations about the type of protective clothing you should wear when you handle farm chemicals," says Shauna Gagne, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Sangudo.

"While complete protection is important, we stress certain areas because they have either a high likelihood of exposure or because they have a high absorption rate," she adds.

Hands are easily the most exposed part of the body. Unlined nitrile gloves are recommended for both the pesticide user and whoever handles pesticide-soiled clothing. Gloves should also fit properly so the wearer can make fine adjustments such as on a sprayer nozzle.

"Protecting your hands really reduces your body's total exposure, but you also need to take care with vulnerable areas that have high absorption rates," says Gagne. These include the scalp, forehead, ear canal and genitals.

The genital area has an almost 12 times higher absorption rate than the forearm. The ear canal rate is more than five times higher and the scalp and forehead absorption rates are about four times higher than the rate for the forearm.

"This means protecting your head is also very important in minimizing your exposure," she says. A hard hat is recommended as are ear plugs. Disposable coveralls with a hood are an extra layer of protection. An impermeable apron is recommended when handling and mixing concentrated pesticides.

For more information on absorption rates, protective clothing or the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Shauna Gagne
785-2266

Fertilize your forage stand

Fertilizing forage stands is an often ignored practice, but can bring many benefits says an Alberta Agriculture crop nutrition agronomist.

"Producers have traditionally shown very little interest in fertilizing forage crops," says Len Kryzanowski. "But with proper fertilizer management, forage productivity can be greatly enhanced by maximizing dry matter production, extending the life of the stand and producing a high quality feed for livestock.

"Forage production is big business in Alberta," he adds. Approximately 50 per cent (25 million acres) of the province's total agricultural land is in forage production. "However, only 25 per cent of this landbase receives fertilizer nutrient application and much of that is under fertilized."

Forages are the major food source of livestock and are also an important component of many sustainable cropping systems. Well managed forage crops can significantly reduce soil erosion and help improve soil tilth and fertility.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Protective clothing critical because of absorption rates 1
Fertilize your forage stand 1
Farm Management Initiative calls for proposals 2
From Alberta perspective stem rust not barley threat 3
Tree investment yard dividend 3
Reductions key to agriculture budget 4
Government responds to Creating Tomorrow 5
NTSP issues resolved for sugar beets 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Kryzanowski and Sukhdev Malhian, an Agriculture Canada research scientist, studied this neglected management practice and have come up with recommendations to help producers better manage their forage stands for longer and better productivity.

"The major objective of most producers is a strong, productive forage stand that lasts for several years," says Kryzanowski. "To accomplish this, fertilizer nutrients must be applied prior to seeding and then regularly each year."

Forage crops respond well to nutrients when the particular soil doesn't have those nutrients. In Alberta, nitrogen and phosphorus are the most commonly deficient nutrients. Potassium and sulphur may also be lacking for certain forage crops and soil types. When forages are harvested as hay or silage, nutrients are removed from the field. Unless manure is reapplied, nutrients aren't returned to the soil.

"Large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur are required for high forage yields," he says. "You also need to be efficient when you apply fertilizer to a forage crop. So, you must decide the type, timing and amount of fertilizer you need to maximize your forage crop. This requires the same kind of attention as a cereal, oilseed or speciality crop. You need to do soil tests, consider the type of forage and also moisture conditions."

Soil testing is the most critical of these steps. A soil test can evaluate soil fertility, nutrient deficiencies, soil acidity and salinity problems, as well as form the basis for recommended fertilizer application.

To start a forage stand, the soil test should be done before seeding. To maintain an established stand, soil test either in the fall or early spring. To diagnose a soil problem, test while the symptoms are visible during the spring or summer.

When establishing a stand and after soil testing, producers need to choose the best forage species and variety for their soil type and climate. Then apply the required fertilizer before seeding. When using a legume forage, use a proper inoculant. Finally, when seeding use a correct seeding rate and method.

"All this should give your forage stand the right start, but you also need to maintain it," he adds.

Maintaining the stand means regular soil sampling and testing to determine the type and amount of fertilizer needed. As well soil and tissue sampling will help diagnose problems.

Annual fertilizer applications are more effective than a large initial application he notes. Another recommendation is fertilizing in early spring. This is generally more effective than a fall or late spring application.

Kryzanowski has other fertilizer tips for better forage production. One is to split applications of nitrogen fertilizer, rather than do a one-time application, on grass or low legume forages. Ammonium nitrate is more effective than urea as a nitrogen source for established grass or low legume forages. Urea's effectiveness can be improved substantially by disk banding the fertilizer below the soil surface. Liming an acid soil will prolong the life of a forage stand.

"Fertilizer requirements for pure grass or legume stands are very straight forward. However, mixed grass-legume stands are much more difficult," he adds.

Contact: *Len Kryzanowski*
427-2530 or 427-6361

Farm Management Initiative calls for proposals

The Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) is now accepting project proposals for development and delivery of farm management training.

"Approximately $1.2 million is available for training Alberta farm managers between now and March 31, 1994," says Anita Lunden, the FBMI provincial co-ordinator. The deadline for proposal submissions is June 1, 1993.

"We are looking for projects that will provide training to farm managers about ownership and transition planning, general production management, finance, marketing and human resource management," she adds.

FBMI is encouraging Alberta farm managers to "put themselves in the picture" and take charge of their management abilities. "Last year over 4,000 FBMI participants defined where their operations are headed through FBMI sponsored management courses and consulting programs," says Lunden.

Different types of training can be funded including classroom, distance education, home study and one-on-one farm appointments. "We're looking for diversity in program content and format," she says, "so we can reach and meet a variety of needs across the province."

Proposals will be accepted from: government; private sector companies and agencies; individuals with experience in management, farming and/or consulting; educational institutions; farm organizations; and, groups of farmers.

Now in its second year of operation, FBMI is designed to increase the competitiveness of farming in Alberta through expanding the management skills of the province's farmers.

Anyone interested in submitting a proposal for the 1993-94 project year should contact Lunden in Olds at 556-4278 for an application form and guidelines.

Contact: *Anita Lunden*
556-4278

From Alberta perspective stem rust not barley threat

A new strain of stem rust that has caused considerable damage in Manitoba and the United States isn't expected to pose a major threat to Alberta barley crops says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Stem rust doesn't overwinter in Alberta, so must be introduced every year," says Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology. "Usually by the time spores can make their way north into Alberta, it's August and the cereal growing season is over," he adds.

Stem rust affects all cereals. Usually different strains affect different species of cereals and grasses. Since the late 1930s, plant breeders have incorporated the effective T-gene for rust resistance into most barley cultivars. This controlled stem rust disease in barley until recently. In 1988 a new rust strain on barley, coded as race QCC, turned up in Manitoba.

"This QCC strain causes serious yield and quality losses in barley," notes Evans, "and, all known barley varieties are susceptible. This strain has already caused sporadic damage to U.S., Manitoba and British Columbia barley crops."

Alberta barley growers don't need to be concerned about rust disease problems yet says Evans. "Stem rust spores do move east from British Columbia into Alberta, but the movement is late and not in large numbers. The spores can also arrive very late in the season from Montana and Manitoba. And even in the most favorable 'rust years' on the eastern prairies, rust diseases haven't been of any consequence in Alberta."

Weather has actually helped prevent a major outbreak where stem rust is most common. To be destructive, the rust fungus needs warm days in late spring and early summer with cool moist nights. "Fortunately the ideal conditions for a severe outbreak to occur are rare," he says.

Plant researchers are looking for a solution. To date they have screened 17,000 barley lines looking for possible resistance. Developing a QCC resistant barley variety is predicted to take 10 to 15 years.

Contact: Dr. Ieuan Evans
472-7098

Tree investment yard dividend

Tree planting is a sound investment says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Trees add to the aesthetics and beauty of your yard. They increase property value and act as a giant air conditioner. And with a little planning, they can be an enjoyable experience," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"But, trees are also a major investment of both time and money, so it's important to be well informed about the trees you choose," she adds.

Part of planning is considering a tree's particular characteristics, from how fast it grows and its mature height, to any bad habits and the likelihood of insect and disease problems.

"You need to ask yourself a number of questions about the tree and how it fits into your yard," says Barkley. "For example, know how tall it will grow. Often trees are planted where they are either too large or too small for the landscape.

"It's difficult, if not impossible, to keep a large-statured tree small. So, a very large tree shouldn't be planted next to your front door step, a shrub is better. It's best to match the mature height of the plant to its planting site."

Another major decision people make is between evergreen or deciduous she says. "Evergreens give protection from sun and wind year-round, but planted in front of a south window will drastically cut down the amount of light and heat the sun provides in the winter.

"On the other hand, deciduous trees, especially green ash, make excellent shade trees for a southern exposure. The green ash leafs late and drops its leaves early. This allows spring and fall sunshine into your house."

The mature width of the tree is also important. Trees must be located where their maximum width doesn't obstruct a sidewalk or crowd a house.

How close the lowest branches are to the ground is also a consideration. Trees that branch low to the ground, such as a willow, are excellent for wind breaks. If the tree is ornamental, it's best if the first branch is five to nine feet from the ground. This allows living space under the tree.

Mature height and width also play a role in how many trees are needed. "When you plant them, they're small, but they grow. Take into account the tree's eventual height and width and plant accordingly. Be especially careful not to crowd trees," Barkley says.

Root systems are another factor in tree choice. A shallow rooted tree will compete with turf, while some trees have aggressive roots that can plug sewer lines, and heave sidewalks and pavement.

Some trees can be a nuisance she adds. They drop twigs, bark, flowers, needles and fruit. Other trees may require special pruning, spraying, feeding or watering. "If you don't have the extra time, then choose a low maintenance tree," she advises.

While every tree will have a certain amount of pest problems, some trees are better choices because they can withstand some pests, or because the pests can be controlled.

Barkley recommends consulting the Alberta Horticultural Guide (Agdex 200/001), talking with a nurseryman in your area, or calling her in Brooks at 362-3391. The guide is available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Reductions key to agriculture budget

The 1993-94 budget for Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is one of broad-based belt tightening and reduction says minister Ernie Isley.

The bottom-line 1993-94 budget for the department totals $384,844,000. That's significantly less than previous years. The budget estimate for 1992-93 is $419,204,000, and the actual expenditure for 1991-92 was $435,638,000.

"The emphasis on reduction is in keeping with the Government of Alberta's economic policy to reduce expenditures and subsequently the provincial deficit," says Isley. "I believe that the agriculture and food industry recognizes the necessity of reducing the deficit."

The budget includes savings in major operations, including the following: $2.5 million as 52 positions are abolished through the Early Voluntary Options Program; an additional 24 positions will be abolished due to restructuring and attrition; and, $1 million with the termination of the high risk subsidy for crop insurance.

An additional $4.1 million has been saved as a number of government sponsored programs have been eliminated or privatized. These include Green Certificate program grants, the Predator Compensation program, the Alberta Swine Artificial Insemination Unit and land classification services.

Grants to farmers under the Green Certificate Program have been eliminated. However, the certificate program will remain in place. The department will continue to keep course material updated, provide training sessions for trainers and trainees, and provide for testing and certification.

The Predator Compensation Program has been eliminated. Problem wildlife specialists will emphasize techniques and management practices to prevent livestock predation.

The Alberta Swine Artificial Insemination (AI) Unit should be privatized early in this budget year. Leading purebred and commercial hog producers have formed a limited company to own and operate the unit.

Land classification services to farmers in irrigation districts are being privatized. Advisory support will be given to the irrigation districts for the next year during the transition.

The 1993-94 budget includes an additional unspecified reduction of $16 million. Even though this figure has been included in the budget, where it will be taken from hasn't been determined. Isley will ask the newly-appointed Agriculture and Food Industry Council to help make recommendations regarding the allocation of the additional reductions.

"Consulting with the new council reflects the Government of Alberta's emphasis on grass roots communication," says Isley. "I am committed to receiving input from the agriculture and food industry on how cut backs—that will affect the industry directly—should be made."

Subject to the consultations regarding the additional reduction of $16 million, the following expenditures and enhancements have been projected: a total of $5 million is proposed to extend the Farming for the Future program for another year; $200,000 to the Policy Secretariat to deal with countervails and other unfair trade allegations against the agriculture and food industry; a new focus on existing marketing including $270,000 to promote Alberta pork in Japan, $150,000 to promote Alberta products in Mexico and $75,000 to promote Alberta products and services in Ukraine and Russia; and, a cereal scientist added at the Leduc Food Processing Centre staff to assist cereal grain growers to develop new products for rapidly increasing value-added market opportunities.

Farm income stabilization continues to be a priority to offset the effects of low commodity prices in the grains and oilseeds sectors, and the impacts of inclement weather conditions that affected all regions of the province in 1992.

A $6.9 million increase (8.1 per cent) has been proposed to sustain the 1992 level of farm income support of the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset Program (ACBOP), the National Tripartite Stabilization programs (NTSP) and the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA).

A $2.4 million increase for NISA is projected, partly because of the recent inclusion of specialty crops in the program. Reviews of NTSP and NISA are underway with a view to developing a whole-farm, net income stabilization program that would be production and market neutral.

In addition, a $1.7 million increase has been allotted to the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation for the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) to cover higher GRIP premium costs.

A total of $220,000 will also be directed toward RCMP support services to provide support and advice to more effectively enforce livestock marketing regulations and legislation.

While capital works funding to the 13 irrigation districts has been reduced from $20 million in 1992 to $19 million in the 1993-94 budget, this reduction is offset by a $1 million increase in funding being put into the Irrigation District Rehabilitation Endowment Fund. In 1993, $6 million will be put into this fund. It is available to irrigation districts to support their future rehabilitation program needs when the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion program ends.

Isley says while the budget reflects the necessity to reduce spending in light of today's economic reality, it was created with an effort to minimize impact on the department's clients.

Contact: *Dwight Dibben* *C.D. Radke*
427-2137 *427-2145*

Government of Alberta responds to Creating Tomorrow

To complement its economic strategy, the Alberta government has released "Breaking New Ground: The Government of Alberta Responds to Creating Tomorrow".

"The Alberta Government has taken the first step to responding to Creating Tomorrow," says Ernie Isley, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. "The second step is up to the industry. We encourage a frank response from industry stakeholders.

"So much has been achieved through Creating Tomorrow that the Alberta government wants to ensure that the openness and understanding developed across the breadth of the industry to date is maintained," he adds.

At Creating Tomorrow, a public consultation process conducted by the agriculture and food industry, participants identified a vision, goals and strategies for the industry's future. "Breaking New Ground" is the government's response. The document provides proposals in draft form for public consideration.

The document is a draft of the white paper the provincial government intends to table in the Legislature after the public has had a chance to provide their input. The draft sets the stage for changes to the government's agriculture and food policy that will complement those changes that industry itself is ready and eager to make.

"Breaking New Ground" includes proposals for policies directed at improving the industry's competitive position, sustaining the natural resource base and the environment, and facilitating rural development as well as ways to re-allocate funds to finance the necessary changes.

"Proposed policies and plans will provide a positive environment for Albertans in the agriculture and food industry to compete in international trade," Isley says.

"I hope that industry will view 'Breaking New Ground' as one more step in the consultative process that will yield positive results for the agriculture and food industry over the next decade," he adds.

Copies of "Breaking New Ground" are available from the Policy Secretariat of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, #310, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben* *427-2137*	*C.D. Radke* *427-2145*

NTSP issue resolved for sugar beets

The federal government and Alberta sugar beet producers have reached an agreement for a revised National Tripartite Stabilization Program (NTSP).

"The new program enables Alberta sugar beet growers to rest assured that an effective safety net is in place and to focus on spring planting," says Premier Ralph Klein. The revised program will be in effect for the 1993 crop.

The new program provides net support of $37.13 per standard tonne in 1993, compared to $34.50 in the former program. Federal, provincial and producer contributions will be based on five per cent each of the calculated support price. Alberta support prices will be calculated at 71 per cent of the 15-year indexed moving average Alberta price.

"This support level under the NTSP framework will address the immediate needs of the industry and facilitate the adjustments required to increase the Alberta sugar beet industry's competitiveness and self-reliance," says Ernie Isley, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. "Although it is cost competitive, our sugar beet industry has been affected by the subsidized international sugar market. An effective safety net program is required to counter the impact of low-priced imported sugar on Alberta growers' returns."

Over the past 18 months, Canada's two sugar beet growing provinces—Alberta and Manitoba—and the federal government have worked to resolve the problems of the existing NTSP for sugar beets. In 1991 the federal government advised the sugar beet tripartite plan, implemented in 1987 to stabilize sugar beet growers' income, was no longer financially viable and that a new program would be required for 1993. In addition, program support levels had declined in recent years to the point where they were unable to meet the needs of the sugar beet industry, resulting in reduced production.

This announcement confirms the Alberta government's on-going commitment to the maintenance and continuing developing of Alberta's sugar beet industry says Klein. "Sugar beet production represents an excellent example of diversification within the prairie economy. Its economic significance is particularly pronounced in southern Alberta where it generates a much higher degree of value-added products than most other prairie crops."

"I believe that the enhanced program will offer effective support to the industry and help maintain a healthy sugar beet industry in Alberta over the longer term," says Brian Anderson, president of the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board.

"Most important," he adds, "this program will help sugar beet growers and the processor address the impediments to competitiveness, and adapt to a fairer and freer trading environment. The move to a more self-reliant and efficient sugar beet industry is in concert with the goals identified by participants of the Creating Tomorrow consultation process."

Isley agrees. "The promotion of diversified and value-added activity like sugar beet production is consistent with one of the goals of Creating Tomorrow: to enhance the strengths of Alberta families and communities through the development of value-added industries in rural areas," he says.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben* *427-2137*	*Lloyd Andruchow* *422-5672*

Agri-News briefs

Horse shows coming to Red Deer

Two major horse shows will run at Red Deer's Westerner Exhibition in late May. The Westerner spring Arabian horse show is May 22 through 24. The show is open to Arabian and half Arabian horses. Classes include halter, performance and amateur. For more information, contact Mal Hough at 346-6156. The equivalent spring Quarter Horse show is May 27 through 30. The evening shows include halter, performance, youth and amateur classes. For more information, contact Joan Donald at 346-6180.

Breton plot field days focuses on forages

Underrated forage crops is the theme of the 1993 Breton Plots field day on Wednesday June 30. Note the date is a departure from the traditional Friday for the field day. Forages play an essential role in maintaining soil quality and in diversifying agricultural production. Speakers will present new information on fertilizing forage crops and ideas about maintaining forage quality. The speakers are Len Kryzanowski and Al McNeil of Alberta Agriculture and Sukhdev Malhi, of Agriculture Canada's research station in Lacombe. Weather permitting, plots tours will be held in the afternoon. The University of Alberta's department of soil science is celebrating 64 years of experimental work at the site. The Breton Plots are on Gray Luvisolic (wooded) soils that are low in sulphur, nitrogen and organic matter. These plots are some of the oldest long term research plots in the world. Breton is located about 100 km southwest of Edmonton, west of Highway 39 and south on Highway 20. For more information, contact Jim Robertson at 492-3242, 492-0191 or FAX 492-1767.

Cattle Commission teams with Trout Unlimited

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) and Trout Unlimited Canada are undertaking a unique co-operative project to study the relationship between range management and riparian habitat. The project will demonstrate the role range management has in maintaining water quality and stream riparian habitat on working ranches. The knowledge gained from these sites will assist grassland managers in developing appropriate riparian ecosystem management methods for grazing, and fish and wildlife habitat. The project will have four phases: to research the Alberta knowledge base of interaction between range management and stream quality; to develop practical integrated range and stream management systems; to select sites to demonstrate different management strategies; and, to develop extension materials for landholders illustrating the role of range management in maintaining viable stream ecosystems. The project, partially funded by federal Green Plan funds through the Canada Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA), is a unique opportunity for bringing stakeholders together to deal with environmental issues. The ACC environmental risk assessment study identified riparian zones as areas of potential conflict between cattle production and wildlife habitat. Trout Unlimited Canada is currently working with individual producers to improve trout habitat. Alberta Environmental Protection's fish and wildlife division, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's public lands management and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) are co-operating partners in this demonstration project. For more information contact Chris Mills with the commission at 275-4400 in Calgary, or Gary Szabo with Trout Unlimited Canada in Calgary at 221-8360.

Alberta Cowboy Poetry gathering June 18-20

The sixth annual Alberta Cowboy Poetry Gathering will return to Pincher Creek June 18 through 20. The gathering, hosted by the Pincher Creek Agricultural Society, features "poets, pickers, singers, story tellers and western artists". The weekend begins with poet registration on Thursday evening and continues Friday with poetry sessions for young and old. Also on Friday, poets go to all local schools with their "cowboy lore". As well, Friday is a salute to seniors and seniors receive special afternoon passes to the Western art show. Saturday sees a full day of poetry sessions at two venues. Both Friday and Saturday evening feature a chuckwagon style barbecue with poetry and song performances. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Sunday is family day with outdoor activities including a pancake breakfast and cowboy church service. Sunday also includes an art auction, Western fashion show and rancher's fun rodeo. An adult weekend pass is $45. Media are asked to call Anne Stevick at 627-4733 for reservations and press passes. For ticket information, call Sandra at 627-2359. For art show and general information, call Bev at 627-2115.

Canadian Water Resources annual meeting June 16-19

The Canadian Water Resources Association will hold its 46th annual conference in Banff June 16 through 19. The theme is "water and the wilderness: development, stewardship, management". Registration information is available from Bruce Elson in Calgary at 261-1195 or FAX 250-7165.

Pork Congress'93 June 15-17

The 19th annual Alberta Pork Congress will run June 15 through 17 at Red Deer's Westerner Park. The three-day salute to Alberta's pork industry includes a trade show, educational seminars, swine shows, and consumer and social events. For more information, contact Pat Kennedy in Red Deer at 340-5307 or FAX 340-4896.

4-Hers clean-up

Alberta 4-H clubs made up about two-thirds of the 521 service clubs who participated in the 17th annual highway clean-up. Some 8,506 children and 4,717 adults cleaned a total of 8,456 km, an increase of 573 km from 1992. Arron Madson, provincial 4-H personal development specialist, notes the province's highways are getting, and staying, much cleaner. "It's encouraging to see that even though more miles were cleaned this year, the total bags of litter collected decreased from just over 55,600 bags to 55,055 bags this year." Other organizations who participated in the clean-up include Junior Forest Wardens, Scouts and church groups. The annual provincial highway clean up campaign is sponsored and administrated by Alberta Transportation and Utilities. For more information, contact Madson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Phone: (403) [illegible]

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUN 18 1993

May 24, 1993

Soil moisture picture improves since fall

Early spring rain and snowstorms are two reasons soil moisture conditions have improved since last fall says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Moisture conditions in most parts of Alberta have improved significantly from what we observed last fall and in most areas there's adequate moisture to sustain crop growth," says soil moisture specialist Allan Howard.

Eastern Alberta, areas of which had been particularly dry, reported precipitation well above normal during April. "The totals were 200 to 300 per cent of normal, with amounts between 30 and 80 mm of precipitation reported," he notes.

Many parts of southern Alberta also reported above normal precipitation during March and April. The Peace region showed the least benefit from winter and spring precipitation. "Conditions in the central and southern Peace region range from dry to extremely dry. Soil moisture levels are driest in the central and western part of the region. We've classified them as very low. That means at best there's only a shallow layer of moisture at the surface," says Howard. (See map page 2.)

On the provincial scale, conditions are moderate he adds. "Moisture conditions are generally better than in 1988, 1991 and 1992, but drier than in 1989 and 1990."

Areas in the low moisture category include the central and western Peace, the Camrose-Barrhead-Bonnyville area, the Strathmore-Drumheller-Brooks areas and two smaller areas—one south of Fort Macleod and the other east of Banff. "These areas require adequate and well-timed precipitation for adequate crop yields," says Howard.

Much of central and southern Alberta as well as the northern Peace had medium soil moisture levels. High soil moisture reserves were found in the extreme south, as well as isolated areas around Hanna, Oyen, Claresholm, Fort Vermilion and west of Red Deer. Timing of precipitation isn't as critical when soil reserves are in the medium and high categories.

Frost was a factor in soil sampling this spring notes Howard. "Frost persisted in the soils longer this year than in the past five years," he says. In most areas, technicians encountered frost until mid-April. It persisted into late April in west central Alberta and the northern Peace. Even in areas with no frost, subsoils were cooler than usual.

"Frozen soils disrupted sampling and resulted in us estimating moisture in some west central and northern Peace areas where soils were frozen," he notes. The spring soil moisture map is based on soil samples at approximately 300 locations across the province, overwinter snowfall information, spring precipitation patterns, and consultation with Alberta Agriculture regional and district staff.

"Moisture categories are designed as a recropping guide, however farmers should sample their own fields before making cropping decisions," he says.

For more information, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861; any regional crop production specialist; or, local district agriculturist.

Contact: *Allan Howard*
381-5861

This Week

Soil moisture picture improves since fall	*1*
Isley calls for Hall of Fame nominations	*3*
Gloves on when using pesticides	*3*
Over 1,700 take farmer pesticide course	*3*
Getting market information electronically	*4*
How to cope with seasonal sow infertility	*5*
Land systems a new tool for municipal conservation planning	*5*
Container gardening options endless	*6*
Briefs	*7*

Alberta
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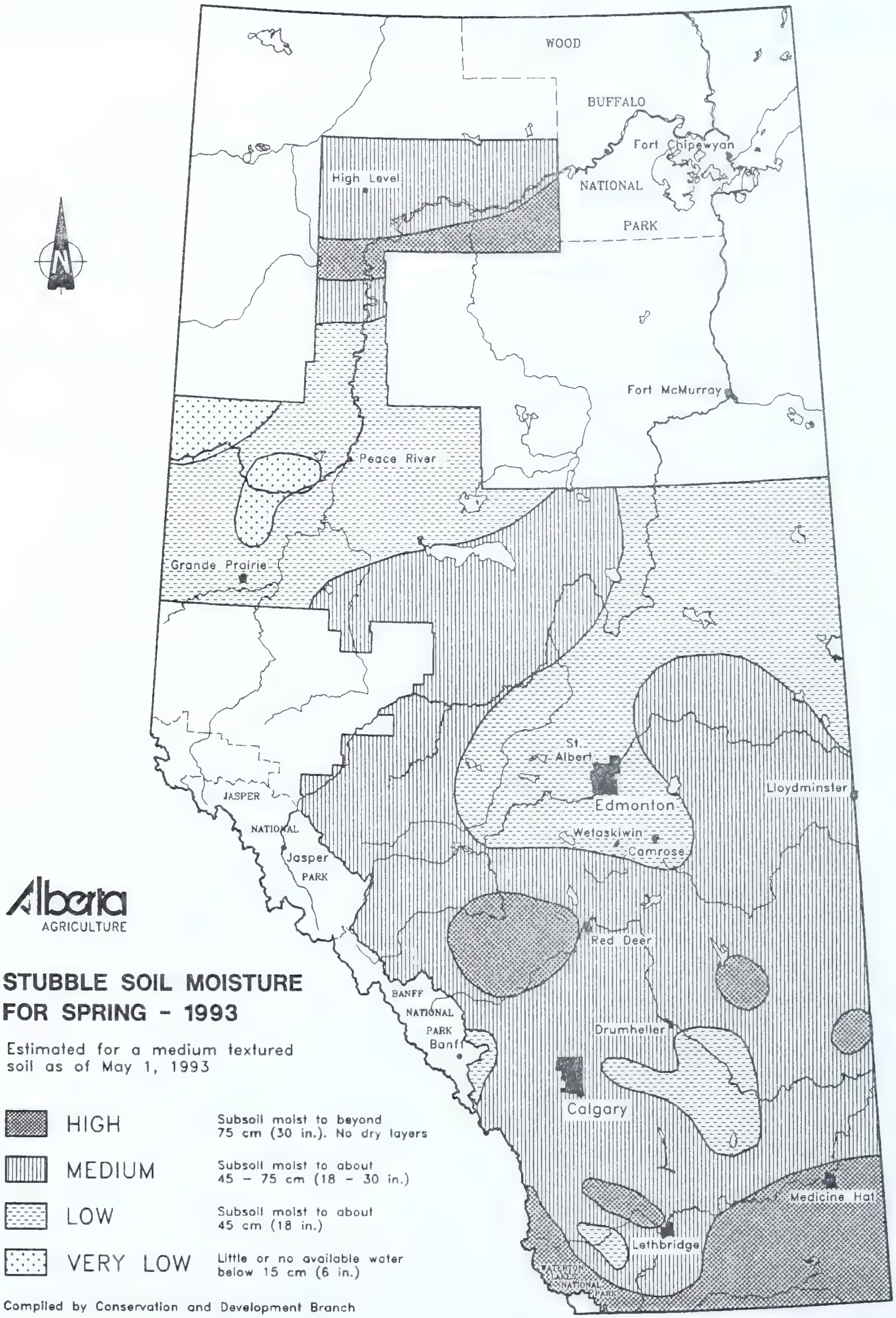
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STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE FOR SPRING - 1993

Estimated for a medium textured soil as of May 1, 1993

▩	HIGH	Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm (30 in.). No dry layers
▥	MEDIUM	Subsoil moist to about 45 - 75 cm (18 - 30 in.)
▤	LOW	Subsoil moist to about 45 cm (18 in.)
⁘	VERY LOW	Little or no available water below 15 cm (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

Isley calls for Hall of Fame nominations

Ernie Isley, Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, is inviting the province's agriculture community to submit nominations for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame.

"The Hall of Fame awards honor the most outstanding members of our industry, past and present," he says. "The awards also acknowledge the essential role played in the lives of all Albertans by agriculture and the members of our agriculture community.

"Each Hall of Fame member shares a dedication, endurance and willingness to adapt and to innovate that has made each of them leaders at home and in the international marketplace," adds Isley.

Nominations for the 1994 Agriculture Hall of Fame must be received by July 31, 1993. Forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or by writing to: Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, Information Services Division, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is a distinction awarded to people—from producers to processors of primary agricultural products—who have played major roles in advancing agriculture in the province. Any Albertan who has made an outstanding contribution to agriculture at the local, provincial, national or international level is eligible for admission.

Hall of Fame inductees for 1994 will be honored at a ceremony next March. The banquet and awards presentation traditionally coincides with the beginning of Agriculture Week in the province. Inductees are featured in a province-wide campaign highlighting the awareness week.

The Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame is located on the main floor of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, at 7000-113 Street in Edmonton.

Contact:	*Bard Haddrell*	*Dwight Dibben*
	427-2127	*427-2137*

Gloves on when using pesticides

"The only reason I have started to use nitrile gloves is because they came with the chemical," was the response one student of the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program made in a survey about the course.

"It's great that the chemical companies are providing gloves, but that shouldn't be the only reason you wear the recommended unlined nitrile gloves when handling and applying pesticides," says Suzanne Randall, district home economist in High Prairie.

Wearing protective gloves is one of the most critical parts of handling farm pesticides she adds. "We know hands account for the greatest percentage of exposure when a farmer works with pesticides—up to 90 per cent of total chemical exposure. So, investing in a pair of gloves is an inexpensive way to protect yourself."

Nitrile gloves should be worn when handling, mixing or pouring pesticides. They should also be on when adjusting sprayer nozzles, and during application if the farmer is directly exposed to spray. For added safety, form a cuff on the glove and wear it under the coverall sleeve. This prevents spills and splashes from running down arms. These gloves are also recommended for whomever handles pesticide soiled clothing before it's washed.

"Not just any glove should be worn. The best, and really a must, are unlined nitrile gloves," Randall emphasizes. She advises checking what gloves are made from before making a purchase.

Cloth and leather gloves must never be used. They absorb chemicals and then are a continuous source of contamination. Also avoid latex rubber, natural rubber, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) gloves. Always avoid lined gloves as they are also difficult to clean. Surgical gloves have limited use for fine adjustments on a sprayer, but don't have sufficient protection for general use. "If you get a good fitting glove, then surgical gloves aren't necessary. A proper fit will allow you to make adjustments to sprayer nozzles," notes Randall.

Unlined nitrile gloves are about $4 per pair and are reusable up to a point. "If the gloves crack, rip, discolor or have pin holes, then you need a new pair.

"Your nitrile gloves do need care. Wash them before you take them off. Then wash them inside and out. Finally, check for holes by filling the gloves full of water," she says.

Randall also notes more Alberta farmers are wearing protective gloves when using pesticides. About three-quarters of the people who took Farmer Pesticide Certificate training in 1992 reported that they wore gloves after taking the course. This compares to 1984 when few, if any, wore nitrile gloves.

For more information on nitrile gloves, protective clothing and the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program, contact you nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: *Suzanne Randall*
523-6500

Over 1,700 take farmer pesticide course

More farm families turned out for the second year of Farmer Pesticide Certificate courses than for the program's first year.

"Last year just fewer than 1,000 people took the course. This winter 1,703 people took the course on how to handle pesticides correctly and safely," says Keith Price of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

"If last year's results hold true, these farmers and their families will experience fewer instances of pesticide poisonings during the spraying season," he adds. "And, they will also make better

Cont'd on page 4

decisions about which pesticides to use as well as when pesticides might not be necessary."

The $40 course, introduced in 1992, teaches safe handling of pesticides including recommended protective clothing. As well, it covers safeguarding the environment and food supply.

The program's first participants were surveyed to see if their pesticide handling practices changed after taking the course notes Price. "We found course graduates used more safety equipment and protective clothing that reduced minor poisonings."

This include wearing nitrile gloves, coveralls, hard hats, impermeable aprons and respirators. Even more important is avoiding clothing that absorbs pesticides and cannot be washed he says. This includes leather gloves, belts, boots and watchbands.

"While the statistics weren't gathered on changes affecting the environment, we expect farmers have made equal progress in this area," adds Price.

Price recommends anyone who wasn't able to take a course last winter get a copy of "Crop Protection with Chemicals", known as simply "the blue book". Pages seven through 25 contains some basic information on safe handling and application practices notes Price.

Next fall, version two of the course will be available. "The updated course will include livestock pesticides, seed dressings and how to combat herbicide resistance," he says. "We also plan to make the course easier to read and revamp the examination," he adds.

The course is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Olds College and several agriculture industry groups.

For more information on the taking a Farmer Pesticide Certificate course, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Keith Price
427-5341

Getting market information electronically

The older market information is, the less power it has and potentially the less profit for the farm marketer, so up-to-date information is essential says an Alberta Agriculture regional market economist.

"Today's farm marketers realize they need the most current information and that the best way to get it is electronically," says the Fairview-based Lee Melvill.

The cheapest method is to use a FAX machine he says. "But, there is a downside. You only get the information you are sent and it might or might not be comprehensive enough. More complete information is available through linking with a market information service or network.

"However, choosing the way you get that information takes some thought, comparison shopping and finally, investment," he adds. "At the very minimum, you'll need a computer and modem."

There are three systems or ways to get electronic market information. They are through: a computer, modem and telephone line; a computer and satellite dish; and, a videotex receiver and a satellite disk.

Most people are familiar with the modem as a way to link computers through telephone lines. A videotex terminal converts electronic signals into graphical images and displays them on a computer screen. This can include tables, charts, graphs, maps and drawings.

Grassroots and the Alberta Wheat Pool Farm Information Service (FIS) can both be accessed with a computer and modem. Grassroots supplies a broad range of Canadian, U.S. and international information. A $100 initial fee includes necessary computer software and set up. The service cost is $30 per month or $330 annually.

FIS was designed to help farmers use a computer on their farm. One part of the system is an electronic bulletin board service with market and other information. Among its advantages are its low cost. Five hours of use costs $25 and 25 hours are $75. Telephone costs are 10 cents per minute for all areas of Alberta that are long distance to Calgary.

"You can preview FIS at some Pool elevators and farm service centres. And there's also a toll-free 'help' line," notes Melvill.

"There are some disadvantages though. FIS only quotes Alberta Pool cash street prices and doesn't have livestock information," he adds.

Other services that require a satellite dish and or a videotex receiver are more expensive. "As well as the extra equipment you'll need for them, all three are based in the U.S. and that increases your costs to install and use the systems," he says. "The three range in cost—including initial fees and monthly fees—from just over $700 to over $2,000 U.S."

Globalink requires a computer and a KU-band satellite dish. The broad range of information includes: futures and options for both Canadian and U.S. grain and livestock markets; daily world livestock, meat and grain market news; and, daily, weekly and monthly futures charts. It doesn't have local Canadian grain, oilseed or livestock cash prices.

The Data Transmission Network (DTN) and FarmDayta^2 both require a videotex terminal and satellite dish. "They both carry the same sort of information as Globalink and both lack extensive Canadian information," says Melvill. "However, for an additional $19 (U.S.) every quarter, the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange futures and options can be included on DTN."

Globalink and FarmDayta^2 both use KU-band signals. "These signals are weaker than the C-band and this weakness limits their service in some parts of Canada, particularly north of Edmonton, unless you have an extremely large dish," notes Melvill.

Cont'd on page 5

Melvill also notes special crop markets aren't well covered by any of the electronic services. "Grassroots seems to be the only service that carries information about pulse crops, but it doesn't have anything about forage seeds or specialty crops such as canary seed or sunflowers," he says.

For more information, contact a regional market economist in Fairview (835-2291), Airdrie (948-8536) or Red Deer (341-7612); the grain market analyst in Edmonton at 427-5386; the livestock market analyst at 427-5376; or, the special commodities analyst at 427-5387.

Contact: Lee Melvill
835-2291

How to cope with seasonal sow infertility

From late May through the hot summer months many hog operations experience what is commonly called seasonal infertility says an Alberta Agriculture regional swine specialist.

"Seasonal infertility can have a real effect on your profits, so it's important you determine if you have this problem and then take steps to prevent it," says the Barrhead-based Bert Dening.

Seasonal infertility affects profit because females bred in the summer months produce pigs sold the following year during the season's best prices. "On most operations, close to half the profit is made during May, June and July—and often August—when the market price is usually highest," he adds.

The drop in female fertility is usually more severe in sows housed outside and less severe with females housed in individual stalls inside. Dening says some veterinarians say the problem is actually pregnancy loss. "They say sows get pregnant in the summer, but as days shorten they abort their litters. The result is an abnormal return to estrus and not the usual 18 to 23 days."

A first step to determining if you have a summer infertility problem is by keeping good records. This include farrowing rates from summer breeding. Then, if you spot a problem, adjust your breeding program. "For example, if your goal is 10 sows farrowing every week and your farrowing rate drops to 66 per cent in July, you need to breed 15 females a week in July to get 10 to farrow later," he says.

Extra boar power in the summer will also help. Heat can affect a boar's sexual drive and sperm production. Young boars, however, are less affected by heat than older boars. "Consider buying new boars in the spring and keep the old boars over the summer to have extra boar power," he says.

Dening also advises keeping a bigger gilt pool during the summer. "Late spring and early summer—May and June—is the time to bring in extra gilts. This bigger pool will give you more animals to breed and help keep your crates full in late fall and early winter."

Adjusting your sow feeding program can also make a difference. Hot weather causes poor appetite that in turn causes weight loss and nutrient deficiencies. Both translate into rebreeding problems. Dening has a number of suggestions to keep sows eating. One is to use a drip cooling system to cool down sows and increase their appetites. These systems, he adds, are inexpensive to purchase or build.

Extra fat—canola oil—in summer rations increases the energy density of the ration, so reduces weight loss. Fat also produces less body heat than carbohydrates, so pigs don't get as hot.

A top dress product, especially vitamin E, will help overcome nutrient deficiencies. Increase protein and premix in lactating sow rations when sows eat less.

Adjusting the lighting in the sow barn is another recommendation. "German researchers have had success by pulling blinds down to reduce day length. You can do the same thing with artificial light. The idea is to have a decreasing day length in the barn starting in late May when actual day length is increasing," he says.

"If you don't have time to adjust light, keep the lights on for about 10 to 12 hours per day in the dry sow barn and provide at least a half watt per square foot of barn," he adds.

Dening also lists a number of other considerations that could help increase fertility. Hormone treatments such as PG600 could bring gilts into heat when needed and reduce days from weaning to breeding in sows. Mud holes and shade for outside sows and boars helps keep them cool in the summer. Adequate ventilation rates are needed for farrowing and dry sow barns to keep the animals cool.

For more information on this and other swine production issues, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture swine production specialist.

Contact: Bert Dening
674-8247

Land systems a new tool for municipal conservation planning

Conservation planners have put together a new way to look at land resources.

The result is a prototype report titled "Land Systems within the County of Stettler, Alberta". It's a joint project of Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"This report merges a variety of physical land information into regional soil and landscape patterns called land systems," says Leon Marciak. The report was developed to support a municipal conservation planning pilot project in the County of Stettler. The planning project involves many agencies and will use the land systems as a basic unit for developing soil and water conservation, and wildlife habitat recommendations.

Marciak, a soil conservation specialist with the provincial conservation and development branch, says the report and its

Cont'd on page 6

map describe 23 different land systems found in the county's just over a million acres. Ten of the systems are completely within the county, the others spill into adjacent municipalities.

The 23 land systems generally range between 40,000 and 60,000 acres. The smallest in the county is around 11,000 acres and the largest is over 138,000 acres.

The report itself is a physical base and future reference for soil and water conservation planning and land management he explains. "The county can use the report as a starting point to review regional land management recommendations and translate the appropriate recommendations to land owners.

"By using land system descriptions as areas where climate, soils and landscape characteristics area similar, we can develop guidelines for appropriate regional land management strategies," says Marciak. "For example, a land system containing a hummocky landform has steep slopes and wetlands in the low areas. Cultivated land on steep slopes has a high water erosion potential. Wet areas in the depressions may be highly suitable for waterfowl. The challenge for conservation planners is to develop strategies that provide a balance between sustainable agricultural production and wildlife habitat.

"While the report presents a regional description for a relatively large area, specific interpretation for an individual land parcel requires more detail," he adds.

The report is also intended for use by a wide range of users. Marciak and his project colleagues believe this type of report will help professionals in land use and natural resource planning at both the regional and municipal scale. "The land systems approach is really the first step in developing an approach where the landscape ecology, or natural features, are considered in relation to land use.

"An additional use of this work is that it provides a biophysical framework (description) of landscapes for people working in agronomy, extension, rural development, economic analysis and appraisal.

"The next phase stemming from this work is linking farmland census data to land systems to provide agricultural production profiles for each area. This allows for the comparison of agricultural land use and production to the landscape," says Marciak.

The report was published with funding support from the Canada Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA). "We expect this form of report to be the basis of future land inventory work related to CAESA," he says.

Contact:	*Leon Marciak* *422-4385*	*Tony Brierley* *Agriculture Canada* *495-6212*

Container gardening options endless

Container gardening is much more than just a simple pot of geraniums says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The type of container, the plants and combination of plants you use, the colors you choose and even where you put the container are all part of container gardening," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Container plantings can frame a view, or direct the eye away from an undesirable view. They be used as a transition from the lawn or garden to a patio. Successful planting designs are containers of varying sizes grouped in clusters, rather than sitting alone.

Containers should be filled with plants of different heights, sizes and textures. "There is a wide range of suitable plants besides annual flowers," Barkley notes. "You can also use vegetables, herbs and combinations of all three.

"But, whatever plant you choose, be sure to match it for the plant location. If the planter will be mostly shady, use appropriate plants. If it's mostly in sun, chose plants that like the sun," she adds.

The container itself also needs to be matched to the location as container choice can often result in failure. "Metal and plastic can overheat if in a very sunny area. Wood and clay don't."

There are also distinctions between informal and more formal settings. Wood and terracotta containers are good choices for an informal setting. A stone urn is more formal.

"Other than that, a container is really anything that will hold soil—an old watering can, leaky pails or even garbage bags filled with soil," she says.

Color is also important in container gardening. "Try using softer colors for areas where people sit. If the containers are to be viewed from a distance, then use more vibrant colors," she says.

Soil is an important part of a container's success. The soil should be a light, airy mix capable of holding moisture. "You can either mix your own soil, or buy a pre-mixed media. The media can be used for about three years before it will need to be changed. You will need to add fresh peat moss to the container each year," she advises.

Water is another component of container gardening. "Water the container on demand," Barkley stresses. "This may mean watering a container two to three times a day during the summer's heat." Wood, clay or dark plastic containers will dry out faster than light-colored plastic.

Containers can be fertilized weekly with fish fertilizer, 15-30-15 or 10-52-10. Fertilize when the container's soil media is moist.

Finally, if the container doesn't have drainage holes, then create a drainage layer in the bottom. Use washed gravel and charcoal for this layer. Then fill the container with soil to five centimeters below the container's rim.

When transplanting, remove the seedling from the cell pack carefully ensuring the roots stay intact. Dig the hole a little larger than the transplant's root ball. Plant the transplant, then firm the area around it with your fingertips. Plant thickly, so the roots touch. Finally, water the container with a solution of 10-52-10 mixed according to the label.

For more information on container gardening, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391, or the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Gas power pressure washer dangerous indoors

Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager is echoing a warning recently given by the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "The warning is that people who use gasoline powered pressure washers indoors are risking their lives," says Solomon Kyeremanteng. The danger is from carbon monoxide poisoning he adds. One fatal and four nonfatal cases have been documented in Iowa. All five involved people using pressure washers to clean buildings used to house livestock. All gas powered engines produce carbon monoxide that can build up rapidly in any indoor area. "People can be overcome without even realizing they've been exposed," says Kyeremanteng. When using a gas-powered pressure washer, the machine should be left outside and the hoses brought inside. "You could be fooled into thinking you have adequate ventilation with doors and windows open. But note, one of these documented situations happened with three doors open and exhaust fans on," he says. For more information, contact Kyeremanteng in Edmonton at 427-2186.

Co-operative direct seeding project field day June 23

Four central Alberta counties are hosting an afternoon field day June 23 at their co-operative direct seeding project. The project is located one mile south of Stettler on Highway 56. The field day includes equipment displays and demonstrations. The four co-operating counties are Stettler, Flagstaff, Paintearth and Camrose. Preregistration is $10 per person. Admission goes up to $15 per person at the gate. Other sponsors include Ducks Unlimited Canada, Elephant Brand, McKay Fertilizer and Monsanto. For more information, contact Michele Buchwitz at 742-4441, Sean Sheedy at 384-3537, Kelly Malmberg at 882-3211 or Jim Thomson at 672-4765.

Beef Information Centre Olympic sponsor again

The national Beef Information Centre (BIC) will again be an official supplier to Canada's Olympic team. The BIC's producer committee made the decision to be a corporate sponsor for the 1994 winter Olympics after reviewing the tracking results from the advertising campaign during the '92 summer Olympics. The Olympic version of the "So what's your beef" television ad aired for two weeks during the Olympic games in Barcelona. Print ads ran in special Olympic issues of three magazines. The BIC notes the Olympics attract the hard-to-reach light TV viewers. Also, as the highest profile sports event in the world are ideal for advertising beef's healthy role in the diet. For more information, contact the BIC in Toronto at (416)766-6146.

Dairy beautification award nominations close June 30

The Alberta Dairy Association (ADA) and co-sponsor the Royal Bank are calling for nominations for a provincial dairy farm beautification competition. The most basic criteria is that nominees must have produced acceptable quality milk during the past year. Nominations can be made by the owner or by anyone else with the owner's permission. Nominations must be received by June 30 and photos of the farm are required by July 16. A minimum of three photos are required with views of what a visitor or passer-by might see when approaching from either side or the front. Judges visit and score each farm in early August. The competition's purpose is to encourage diary producers to beautify their homesteads; to demonstrate to the public the pride dairy producers have in their work and the professional way it's done; to foster high quality dairy products through association with attractive and well maintained operations; and, to support the purity and wholesomeness of milk and milk products by demonstrating excellence on the dairy farm. The top three entries all receive medals, and the winner a trophy for a year and a sand blasted gate sign. The 1992 competition winners were The Egbert Kanis family of Innisfail. Provincial winners aren't eligible for the competition again for five years. Previous finalists are encouraged to re-enter the competition. Awards will be presented by the association's convention in Edmonton in early February 1994. For more information, contact the ADA in Edmonton at 455-5164, FAX 453-2669 or write 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9.

TQS video series available for loan

A three-part video series on total quality service (TQS) is now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library. The series is a practical and motivational introduction to the latest ideas of Karl Albrecht, an international management consultant, on achieving complete customer satisfaction. The first video looks at "Customer value: the only thing that matters". The second outlines Albrecht's five step TQS model. The six pitfalls are identified in the third video. For loan information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Farm Equipment Institute meets June 19-21

The Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute will hold its 26th annual conference at Manitoba's Gull Harbour Resort June 19 through 21. Larry Martin, chair of the federal agri-food competitiveness council, and Clay Gilson, University of Manitoba agricultural economist, are featured speakers. For more information, call institute's office in Burlington at (416)632-8483.

South 40 Conservation Association award first scholarship

Rory Mack, a grade 12 student at Manyberries High School, is the first recipient of the South 40 Conservation Association scholarship. Mack's winning project compared the profit margin between selling newly weaned calves and yearlings in the spring. He surveyed 15 local ranchers for the project. The $500 scholarship was designed to challenge students to excel academically, promote agricultural awareness at the school level and promote agriculture in the urban setting. Students in four high schools in the County of Forty Miles are eligible for the scholarship. For more information, contact association president Richard Fritzler at 545-6528, secretary Stewart Collin at 867-2396, or Graham Gilchrist, Foremost district agriculturist at 867-3606.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

May 31, 1993

Irrigation development increasing in central and northern Alberta

Dry conditions and increasing crop diversification have increased irrigation development in central and northern Alberta says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Those two factors have also brought a trend of two different types of development," says Dennis Roll, regional irrigationist in Airdrie.

One type of irrigation is for small market garden, fruit growing and tree nursery operations. "Typically, they use the water conservation technique of trickle irrigation with water supplied from dugouts or small reservoirs. The dugouts are filled from spring snowmelt run-off and seasonal precipitation," he notes.

This type of irrigation system has been particularly popular in the Peace and northwest regions he adds.

The other type of development is wheel roll and centre pivot sprinkler systems using a river as the water source. "Most current sprinkler development is taking place in the northwest, northeast and north central regions. The North Saskatchewan and the Red Deer rivers are the major water sources," Roll says.

This irrigation method is used on a variety of crops including seed potatoes for export, commercial vegetables, turfgrass and forages in the northwest and northeast. Forages are the most commonly irrigated crop in north central Alberta. Both sprinkler and backflood irrigation are used.

"Besides the specific needs of special crops, dry conditions for the past several years have placed increased demands on existing soil and water resources," adds Roll.

All of these irrigation developments, unlike the irrigation districts in southern Alberta, are private projects he says. This means the development costs are paid by the individual producer. Costs include determining soil suitability for irrigation, equipment installation and operating costs.

"As well, the priority on conservation has increased the individual's financial responsibility to ensure their systems are environmentally and economically feasible investments.

"However, even though initial costs are high, where irrigation is feasible, producers are taking action to sustain their own future long-term water supplies," he says.

Contact: Dennis Roll, 948-8540

CANADIANA
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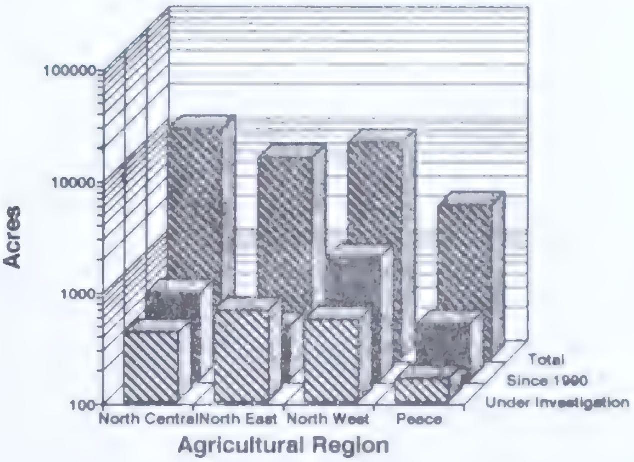
IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT
CENTRAL, NORTHERN REGIONS



This Week

Irrigation development increasing in central and northern Alberta 1

Narrow row bean fungicide application methods tested 2

Barley commission newest sponsor of ag ed events 3

Beef latest research review subject 3

Nearly 40 year legacy celebrated a million ways 3

Currant fruit fly, worm and aphid pests 4

Big Valley ranch family honored with Prairie Conservation Award 4

Briefs 5

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Narrow row bean fungicide application methods tested

Not only is white mold a problem for Alberta bean growers, applying fungicide to control the disease in a narrow row crop is difficult.

White mold (Sclerotinia) attacks the blossoms of flowering bean plants. The blossoms act as an energy source for the fungus. If left alone, white mold can cause major yield losses.

"Farmers using narrow row spacing have the problem of how to apply a fungicide onto the blossoms and lower stems of bean plants without damaging the plants," says Robert Maze, project engineer at the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre (AFMRC).

Complications in spraying beans include the way the chemical functions as well as the dense growth in the narrowly spaced rows. The pesticide used to control white mold is systemic. A systemic fungicide moves upward through the plant, rather than down as most other pesticides do. So, the spray needs to be deposited on the lower plant parts.

"Usually you can use drop tubes to place nozzles near the lower plant parts," says Maze, "But, narrow row spacing beans causes dense growth and intertwining between rows. So drop tubes aren't practical because they cause severe plant damage. As well, the bruises and scars from this damage are ideal growth areas for the white mold."

To help solve the problem, centre staff have looked at different nozzles, application rates, pressures and nozzle positions to try to find the best application method for narrow seeded beans.

Overall, higher pressures deposited the most chemical on the lower stem and blossoms (see chart). Increasing nozzle pressure reduced droplet size and increased droplet velocity helping with penetration and coverage. However, reducing droplet size also increased spray drift potential.

Larger nozzles used in testing also put more chemical on the lower plant parts. "However," notes Maze, "previous field work completed by AFMRC indicated that large water volumes actually deposited less chemical on the plant because of excessive run-off from the leaves."

For now, Maze recommends farmers use high pressure and high volume nozzles just to the point where run-off or dripping takes place.

Nozzle position is also a factor. Spraying directly overtop of rows will cover the top of the plant, but isn't effective at reaching inside plants and the bottom blossoms and stems. "Nozzles placed between the rows provided the best coverage," Maze says.

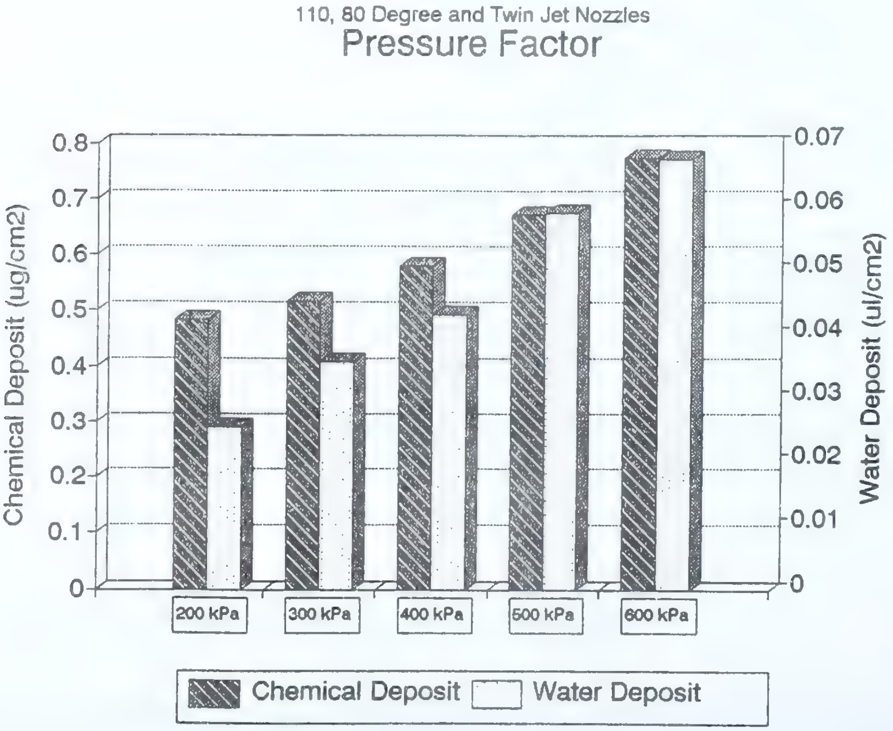
On average, 80 and 110 degree flat fan nozzles were superior to the twin jet nozzles. In field tests the flat fan nozzles also out performed hollow cones in most situations. "This suggests that nozzles with high droplet velocities penetrated the plant canopy better," he says.

At best, 16 per cent of the applied chemical was deposited on the lower plant blossoms and stems. The other 84 per cent landed on upper plant leaves or ran off the plant.

"We now have some general recommendations," says Maze. "But, further agronomic studies are needed to determine if we've come up with sufficient coverage—the 16 per cent—for fungicide control."

For more information, contact Maze in Lethbridge at 329-1212.

Contact: *Rob Maze*
329-1212



Barley commission newest sponsor of ag ed events

The Alberta Barley Commission is the latest agricultural organization to furnish its sponsorship to major agricultural education programs in the province.

"This sponsorship came about the best way possible, they asked us," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture's agricultural awareness co-ordinator. "The commission's board was eager to be involved and we look forward to a long association."

The commission will sponsor two separate activities. They are the opening banquet entertainment at the Summer Agricultural Education Institute and a "special attraction" at the annual agricultural ambassador school fair.

"Both of these sponsorships are something unique that add a distinctive flavor, quality and excitement to these events," says Gabert. "Last year Prairie Fire Theatre performed their conservation revue at the institute's opening banquet. Whatever the choice for 1993, the entertainment will accentuate agriculture."

The 1993 Summer Agricultural Education Institute is July 12 through 23 at Olds College. The institute is a fourth-year university level agricultural awareness course for teachers. As well as the 30 teachers, the banquet audience includes 30 farm couple hosts, upwards of 50 industry representatives, sponsors, college dignitaries and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development representatives.

The special attraction every year at the agricultural ambassador school fair is designed to have a general appeal to the public whether or not they have a farming background. In 1993 the special event was a stock dog herding ducks. "That was very popular with the over 900 children who came to the fair in Medicine Hat," notes Gabert.

A sheep shearing competition is planned for the 1994 fair in Camrose in February. It will run five times during the two-day event. About 1,800 people are expected to attend the fair in Camrose.

"We're very pleased to now be associated with these successful and popular agricultural awareness programs," says Andrea Lowther, the commission's project co-ordinator. "Educating both teachers and students about agriculture is of the utmost importance so our more urban population understands the realities, opportunities and value of this basic industry."

Lowther also echoes Gabert, "We hope this will be a long term commitment on both sides."

Contact:	*Betty Gabert*	*Andrea Lowther*
	427-2403	*291-9111*

Beef latest research review subject

Snack beef products, biotechnology in vaccine development and improved animal welfare are three of the main research needs identified in a recent review of the beef industry by the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute.

"The institute, through its Agricultural Research Reviews Program, has conducted 17 research reviews since 1989," says Ralph Christian, the institute's executive director. The reviews were conducted to identify research requirements for all major agricultural commodities and disciplines. "The first of those reviews was for beef, so this latest review begins the second cycle of the program with more emphasis on leading-edge research," he adds.

Producers, processors, researchers, private associations, universities and government were represented at the review. "The group identified a number of research areas they saw as important to maintain and improve the beef industry's competitive position," says Christian.

On the processing side, specific research needs included: developing convenient, snack-type beef products; beef products with a moisture content between fresh and jerky; environmentally friendly packaging; extending shelf life with innovative packaging, biotechnology and improved temperature control during distribution; safer processing by using hazard analysis of critical control points (HACCP); increased automation and use of robotics in beef processing; and, recovering beef by-products.

The review also covered production issues and needs. Areas suggested for priority research were: biotechnology for improving cattle disease vaccines; state-of-the-art cattle fertilization techniques; environmentally sound management of manure and waste products from feedlots; and, alternatives to branding.

Review summaries are available by writing to the Research Division, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, #202, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, or by telephoning 427-1956.

Contact:	*Patrick Marce*	*Dr. Ralph Christian*
	427-1956	*422-1072*

Nearly 40 year legacy celebrated a million ways

There are at least a million reasons to acknowledge the role of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in annual Arbor Day celebrations across the province.

"In 38 years we've donated over one million seedlings for students to plant," says Brendan Casement, nursery development specialist at the centre.

The centre has supplied Arbor Day seedlings to grade one or

Cont'd on page 4

three students since 1958. The first year 6,000 seedlings were distributed. Last year the distribution was 86,000.

This year a special centennial donation of 50,000 white spruce seedings was made to Edmonton. The city also received another 15,000 Colorado spruce seedlings. Calgary received a similar number. Other major seedling recipients included Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and the counties of Strathcona, Parkland, Leduc and Wheatland.

"School boards request the seedlings from the tree nursery. Consequently most people just remember receiving them at school and don't know who supplied the trees," Casement notes. "However, for the last four years we have been recognized for supplying Arbor Day seedlings for TransAlta Utilities."

TransAlta approached the centre to see if the company could distribute seedlings to rural schools in its power distribution area. In 1993 the utility company distributed 24,500 seedlings—15,400 Lodgepole pine and 9,100 Colorado spruce.

"We do hear a lot of testimonials about trees," Casement adds. "One came from Brian Evans, environmental protection minister, at Edmonton's 100th anniversary Arbor Day celebration earlier this month. His daughter received an Arbor Day seedling 17 years ago and this year studied for university exams sitting under that special tree."

Arbor Day's roots are in Nebraska where it was first held in 1872. An area farmer dreamed of turning the treeless plains into an area like his former home in the wooded eastern U.S.

Alberta celebrated its first Arbor Day in 1884. The Northwest Territories Council passed an order allowing one or two days a year to be designated as Arbor Day(s).

Most Arbor Day celebrations and projects in Alberta are scheduled for the first Thursday in May.

Contact: Brendan Casement
422-1789

Currant fruit fly, worm and aphid pests

While currant and gooseberries are ideal fruit plants for a small yard, they also come with some common pests says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"There are three main pests," says Shelley Barkley, information officer at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "They are the currant fruit fly, the imported currant worm and the currant aphid."

The currant fruit fly can cause damage to both red and white currants as well as gooseberries. The female fly lays her eggs—between 100 and 200—in the developing fruit. They can be seen as a red spot. When the eggs hatch, the maggots feed on the fruit.

"You can see this in two ways. The fruit is wormy and has to be culled or you'll have lots of berries on the ground," she says.

This insect can overwinter in soil under the plant. The adult flies emerge about the same time as the plants are in full flower.

Barkley advises raking and removing infested berries on the ground to reduce the insect population. "Applying insecticides to the flowers while they are withering and after petal drop will give you some control," she adds.

Red and white currants and gooseberries are the favorite of the imported currant worm. "Once the larvae start eating leaves, they can completely strip a bush in a matter of days," she notes. This defoliation weakens the plant and reduces berry yields.

"Another feature of this pest is that two generations can attack plants in a year. Watch for defoliation in late May and again in July," Barkley says.

The larvae are yellowish-green with many black spots. Their heads and legs are also black. Mature larvae are green with yellowish heads. They can be controlled easily with insecticides or by hand-picking. "The secret of control is to detect the pest before the shrub loses its leaves," she adds.

The second generation of the worm will overwinter as a cocoon on or near the soil surface.

The currant aphid, in its egg stage, overwinters on the plant's new growth. The small, yellow insect feeds on the underside of currant leaves. As leaves open, the young aphids begin feeding on the leaf undersides. As a result, the leaf's upper surface is puffed with red or yellow blisters. Plants usually will suffer from loss of vigor and premature leaf drop from the aphid damage.

"If this pest has caused problems in previous years, an insecticide application before the plant flowers should help control the aphids," she says.

For more information on growing currants and gooseberries and dealing with their pests, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Big Valley ranch family honored with Prairie Conservation Award

A ranch family from Big Valley was one of three recipients of the first Alberta Prairie Conservation Awards.

The Usher family—Thomas, Margaret, David and Les—are partners in a ranch founded by their father in 1904. They were recognized for their ongoing commitment to sound, quality range management on a Crown grazing lease held by the family since 1917. Because of the pristine condition of the area, an ecological reserve was established on a portion of the lease in 1990.

The reserve is in the Rumsey South Block, part of the largest remaining block of non-sandy aspen parkland in the world. The entire lease, southeast of Big Valley in central Alberta, remains in

Cont'd on page 5

such well preserved condition, that it still retains its pre-settlement character.

Their award citation reads in part: "Sound management practices, a caring and thoughtful approach to development and use are principles the Usher family have successfully employed on this land".

Les Usher says the conservation ethic was something his family was brought up with. His father, who came from Scotland, saw the area before significant settlement and before the land was plowed. "It impressed him," says Usher simply, adding his father was adamant about not "despoiling" the country. Trails in the lease were kept to a minimum and the range was never overgrazed.

The Prairie Conservation Awards were established to acknowledge special efforts by individuals and organizations in conserving and safeguarding Alberta's native prairie and parkland ecosystems. Brian Evans, Minister of Environmental Protection, announced the award recipients earlier this month.

The other 1993 recipients are Roger Creasey of Calgary, and the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield and Major H. Brent McDonald.

Creasey is a professional biologist who has worked behind the scenes on conservation of native prairie for many years. Currently, Creasey is senior environmental advisor for the Energy Resources Conservation Board and is involved with the Crown of the Continent Society.

He has been a strong advocate for conservation and has consistently involved stakeholders when finding better ways to deal with the land use pressures on native areas and the plants and animals those areas support.

Among his achievements was the 1992 completion of "Guidelines for Minimizing Disturbance on Native Prairie Areas". This is the first comprehensive document setting out how energy development should be carried out on native prairie.

CFB Suffield has used sensitive land stewardship for the past 22 years. In March 1992 it formalized protection of sensitive mixed grasses and sand hills areas. Major Brent McDonald, base operations officer, has been a significant contributor. His commitment to conservation resulted in an increase in range patrol personnel from one person in 1979 to 25 people today. He also took a lead role in the memorandum of understanding between the Department of National Defence and Environment Canada to protect critical habitat on the base.

"Our native prairie grasslands, in many cases, represent some of the largest and most diverse blocks of these ecosystems in Canada," said Evans when the awards were presented during a working meeting of the Prairie Conservation Co-ordinating Committee. "I am very proud of the people we honor today. Recognition for their efforts and involvement in the preservation and conservation of valuable prairie habitats, and the wildlife species they support is well deserved."

Contact:	*Andy Masiuk*	*Miles Scott-Brown*
	422-9498	*247-0200*

Agri-News briefs

Rangeland evaluation seminar June 2-4

In response to industry demand, Olds College is offering an intensive, three day course on rangeland evaluation for real estate sales people, credit advisors from financial institutions and government agencies specializing in rural land evaluation and appraisal. The seminar will be offered June 2 through 4 at the college. The seminar prepares students to assess the productive value of rangeland. For more information, contact extension services at the college at 556-8344.

Call before you dig

Landowners who plan to dig or auger, but aren't sure when they'll do the work can call Alberta 1st Call while their digging is still in the planning stages. It usually takes two full working days to identify and locate underground facilities in most areas. However, once underground lines are flagged, land owners—farmers, ranchers or acreage owners—can make a permanent geographical reference that allow them to come back when convenient to do the digging. When calling, tell the operator that your digging is in the planning stage, but you require the lines to be located advises Ron Robertson, marketing and membership manager. Alberta 1st Call is a non-profit, member funded notification service with a directory of buried facilities from its 207 members throughout the province. Some of the typical ground disturbances that require calling first, include dugout digging, manure pits, sewage lagoons, post pounding, soil or gravel

Cont'd on page 6

testing, moisture probing, drainage ditching, sub-soiling, installing utilities, digging basements or footings, and tree removal/planting. The toll-free number for Alberta 1st Call is 1-800-242-3447. For more information, call Ron Robertson in Calgary at 531-3713.

Enjoy Beef the Low Fat Way on video

A 15 minute video that explains how to enjoy beef the low fat way is now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library. The video tells how to choose lean cuts when shopping, clears up confusion about fat content and discusses current Canadian production standards. Home economist Kay Spicer shows a few easy methods of cooking and serving beef the low fat way. For loan information, write Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

World potato congress comes to PEI

The first World Potato Congress will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island July 7 through 9. Delegates from potato organizations from around the world including processors, producers, traders, regulators, shippers and international production and marketing specialists are expected to attend. The congress and exposition are billed as an unprecedented opportunity to be part of the action in the first integrated potato industry forum and marketplace. Among the topics on the congress program are potato utilization, trade facilitation, technology and potato industry development, potato promotion and merchandising, and world potato industry development. For more information, contact the World Potato Congress, Farm Centre, Suite 101, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7Z5, call (902)368-8885 or FAX (902)628-2225.

Food safety videos available

Three videos that discuss food safety issues are now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library. "Food Safe, Food Smart" is a two part series produced by Alberta Agriculture. In particular the two 17 minute videos examine the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system and its application in the food industry. The first video introduces the HACCP concept. The second provides an overview of methods to design and implement a HACCP system in a food processing plant. "A Matter of Confidence" is a Health and Welfare Canada video that describes the role various groups play in the safety of food derived from animals. In particular it looks at the role of the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs. It is also available in French. For loan information, write Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Nominations sought for provincial dairy award

Nominations are now being accepted for the provincial dairy award of distinction. Any group or individual may submit the resume of a person who has made a major contribution to the dairy industry. Posthumous nominations will be accepted. Nominees must be or have been: a dairy farmer; active in or made contributions to the industry or related organizations; and, active as a member of the community. Nominations close on August 1, 1993. Resumes can be submitted to the Western Exposition Association, Provincial Dairy Award of Distinction, Box 176, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 5E8. The award presentation will be made on November 3 at the Westerner Fall Dairy Show awards banquet in Red Deer. For more information, contact the Westerner Exhibition Association at 343-7800.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUN 18 1993

June 7, 1993

Plaque, reunion mark DHE 50th

Former and current district home economists (DHE) came back to Settler, where the service started, to celebrate and mark the 50th anniversary of the appointment of the first DHE and the beginning of their service to rural Alberta families.

Billed as a reunion, the two-day event had the tone of a family gathering complete with hugs, photo albums and "Remember whens". As Sharon Stredwick, current Vermilion DHE put it, "I think one of the greatest things about coming back to this reunion is the sense of family that we have here. We're all interconnected."

The reunion started with a Friday evening "trip through the past" on an Alberta Prairie Steam tour between Stettler and Big Valley. The train ride had roots in DHE history, as the first DHE Esther (Anderson) Williams arrived in Stettler by train, and during the early years DHEs travelled between communities by rail.

The second day included plenty of time for visiting, catching-up and reminiscing. An Alberta Made pancake breakfast was followed by time to tour displays at the current provincial building and district office, and visit Stettler's current museum and former court house where the Alberta Agriculture district office was first housed.

"We had an informal program to give people an opportunity for everyone to have time to talk and meet old friends and colleagues," says Joyce Lencucha, former DHE and current Red Deer regional home economist, who headed the group who co-ordinated the anniversary event. Reunion participants came from as far away as Prince Edward Island as well as from all four western provinces.

The anniversary reunion ended with a celebration luncheon featuring "decade" speakers. Representing the 1940s was Edna Clark, who was the first Red Deer DHE and also served the Olds district. Clark recalled the shortages of war time and "how to make dos" such as making "very presentable straight skirts" from mens' trousers"; and, with a lack of car the need to catch rides to schools with health nurses, sanitary inspectors and National Film Board representatives, and taking bus, train, farm truck and "anything else on wheels" to courses, farm calls and 4-H events.

Besides the uniqueness of the times, Clark remembers the early days as the beginning of Vera MacDonald's—the long time supervisor of home economics extension—vision that a home economics extension service should blanket the province the same way as the district agriculturist service. "It seems like yesterday," said Clark, "and here we are 50 years later celebrating a momentous announcement because it has made such a difference in the lives of each and every one of us."

Edith Zawadiuk, who recently retired as the north east regional home economist, represented the 1950s. Her memories included a very eventful farm call complete with two flat tires that nearly ended her career before it started.

"Being a DHE in the 50s was wonderful," she said. "People had put behind the gloom and doom of the depression and war years, and there was new hope and optimism." She added the 1950s included a lot of activity in rural Alberta including telephones, electrification, road building and farmstead construction.

Sewing clothing had a particular emphasis as the cost of making new garments was half the cost of buying them. With dieticians in rural hospitals practically non-existent and health units just getting started, DHEs provided nutrition information. As well, the late 1950's "Farm and Home" program emphasized some of the same areas as today—budgeting, record keeping, production planning

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Plaque, reunion mark DHE 50th 1
Beef producers to discuss safety net programs 2
Bee Act changed to fight potential mite infestations 2
Large volumes, high prices moved in cattle markets 3
Buyer uncertainty still factor in wheat market 4
Keep close watch on volatile canola market 4
World animal production conference coming to Edmonton 4
Briefs 5
Coming agricultural events 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

and family communication.

Sharon Stredwick, who came to Vermilion in 1968 and served the community for seven years and took up the job again in 1990, represented the 1960s. She recalled those years as full of traditional homemaking skills including time management, goal setting, financial management, consumer awareness and sewing classes with "that marvellous new fabric, Fortrel". She also remembered the close role with Women's Institutes.

Yvonne Kennedy (nee Hopkins) joined the Medicine Hat district office in 1969. One of her earliest memories of the 1970s was promoting Alberta products and using the new technology of microwave ovens. Along with memories of being a young, single professional women in rural areas with matchmakers and bachelors abounding, she also recalled major programs of that 1970s including the Food and Nutrition at School program, leadership training, a doubling in the number of DHEs and establishing regional home economist positions.

The role of the DHE in the 90s could be summed up in the letter F said Kerry Engel, current Westlock DHE who spoke for the 1980s and 1990s. The F stands for: farmers, Famex, 4-H, financial management, Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI), fibre, food, Farming for the Future, farmer fashions (protective clothing) and farm calls.

"I feel very honored to be up here today to represent some of the most capable, creative and accomplished women I have ever met—the Alberta Agriculture home economists," she said.

Jeanne Pearson of Donalda brought her "thoughts of a farm family" to the gathering. As a transplanted city girl she told the assembled group, "I stand here as one of your success stories." She praised the home economist service for the support and education she received.

Kay Dean, current Stettler DHE, presented a recognition plaque to Les Lyster, the assistant deputy minister of field services. The plaque marking the 50th anniversary of DHE services will be on display at Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development headquarters in Edmonton.

A history of the DHE service was also launched at the weekend event. **Families, Farms & Home Economists Fifty Years of Partnership** is available by contacting Edith Zawadiuk at Box 31, Two Hills, Alberta, T0B 4K0.

Contact:	*Joyce Lencucha*	*Kay Dean*
	340-7613	*742-7500*

Beef producers to discuss safety net programs

Alberta beef producers are being invited to participate in a series of meetings starting June 16 to discuss alternatives to the current National Tripartite Stabilization Program (NTSP) for beef cattle. Similar meetings will be held across Canada The current program is scheduled to expire in 1995.

"The market for cattle has changed significantly since the NTSP was established in 1986," said Al Proulx, director of Agriculture Canada's farm financial programs branch stabilization division. "For example, about 30 per cent of Canadian cattle are now sold on export markets, compared to six per cent in 1986."

"It is imperative that the safety net process also change to maintain and improve our competitive position in export markets," added Proulx. The current NTSP doesn't fit General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) criteria and has been challenged by American beef producers seeking countervail duties against Canadian beef.

"Establishing a safety net program for beef producers that will assure the security of our markets and industry is an urgent priority for our organization," said Len Vogelaar, a beef producer from Pincher Creek and a stabilization representative for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA).

The producer meetings will be held during the month of June and jointly chaired by representatives from the CCA, and the provincial and federal governments. A report of producer response to proposed alternatives will be presented to federal and provincial agriculture ministers at their July meeting.

The process to find a new safety-net program for beef producers began in May 1992 when producers, and federal and provincial government representatives from across Canada established criteria for the ideal program and developed a list of program alternatives. Through discussion and research, that list of alternatives has been narrowed to five proposals.

Those alternatives will be explained and discussed at the producer meetings, which will be organized by the provincial governments involved. "We hope that producers will come out and take part in deciding their industry's future," said John Larson, acting head of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's livestock support branch.

Details about the meetings to be held throughout Alberta will be announced via local newspapers, radio stations and producer associations. The Alberta meetings will take place on the following dates: June 16, 1:30 p.m., Sexsmith Civic Centre, Sexsmith; June 17, 7:30 p.m., Westlock Community Hall, Westlock; June 21, 1:30 p.m., Vermilion Legion Hall, Vermilion; June 23, 3:00 p.m., Capri Centre, Red Deer; June 28, 1:30 p.m., Heritage Inn, High River; June 29, 1:30 p.m., El Rancho Motor Hotel, Lethbridge; and, June 29, 7:30 p.m., Heritage Inn, Brooks.

Contact:	*Ken Moholitny*	*John Larson*
	422-9167	*422-0015*

Bee Act changed to fight potential mite infestations

Recent changes to Alberta's Bee Act are designed to prevent or at least delay the infestation by Varroa jacobsoni, a mite, which can kill a hive in two to three years if left unattended says a provincial apiculturist.

Two changes were made to the Bee Act say Kenn Tuckey. The first designates Varroa jacobsoni as a disease and the second

Cont'd on page 3

restricts the importation of Apis mellifera (honeybees) from six provinces.

"Varroa is a mite that originated in a bee other than the honeybee and came to us from Asia, India and China," says Tuckey.

"In 1987 the mite was found in the United States and last summer it was discovered in southern British Columbia," he adds. "The changes to the Bee Act were made to give us more tools to fight infestation."

To date, the Varroa mite has not been found in Alberta, but Tuckey indicates it's just a matter of time before it shows up somewhere. It has been found in British Columbia (with the exception of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands), Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

The restrictions to honeybees importation means hives can't be brought into Alberta from provinces with infestations without being properly treated with approved chemicals. Importation also requires special permits.

Tuckey says the Varroa mite has a parasite-host relationship with bees. The female mite lays eggs in the brood cells of the honeybee. At the pupa stage the mites attack the host bee.

"Light infestation has little effect, medium infestation can cause some bees to have defects and heavy infestation can kill the new bee," says Tuckey.

"Heavy infestation, and infestation left unattended, will kill a hive in two to three years,"

Two chemicals that control infestation have recently been approved for use in Canada. They are fluvalinate and formic acid.

Tuckey emphasizes that the two chemicals are only for controlling Varroa, not eliminating the disease.

"It's like spraying your lawn for dandelions, you can get most of them, but there are always a few you miss."

He adds treating hives is fairly expensive at between $5 and $10 per hive.

Tuckey says he hopes the changes to the Bee Act will help slow the infestation. At the same time provincial officials continue to run surveys designed to spot the Varroa mite.

Contact: Kenn Tuckey
422-1789

Large volumes, high prices moved in cattle markets

The Alberta fed cattle trade in late April and early May saw an unusual combination of large volumes of cattle moving at high prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"In response to the large volumes, the price spread between Western Canada and outside markets widened by a couple of dollars, but a firm U.S. market and a weak Canadian dollar compensated for the surge in local supplies," says Ron Gietz.

Up to mid-May, Alberta direct sale slaughter steers consistently averaged above $96/cwt., similar to prices earlier this year. By the third week of May there was definitely a weaker tone to U.S. fed cattle prices. This saw a large volume of trade below the $80 level.

"As with the late March price break, retail and wholesale markets appeared to take the lead, with boxed beef cutout values continually pressured lower," says Gietz.

Gietz notes that the completion of beef orders for the Memorial Day (May 31) U.S. holiday appeared to be a factor in the lower wholesale prices.

On the supply side, low carcass weights continue to limit beef production, compensating for the increased slaughter volumes, but the big spring and summer run of cattle in the U.S. has yet to materialize.

The April United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cattle on Feed Report shows a lower than anticipated placements estimate resulted in a reduction in the U.S. cattle-on-feed inventories. April marketings were on the high side of expectations. The low placements figure is positive for the fall market, but there are still large volumes of cattle to be marketed in the summer months.

Gietz forecasts slaughter cow prices will follow trends established during the past five years. The trends are based on information gathered for D1 and D2 cow prices on the Edmonton market.

The four trends that have been identified are: in all of the last five years, July prices have veraged above June prices; there was no dominant trend between July and August prices; prices declined steadily from August to November; and, prices increased from November to December in four of five years.

"Because of the reliability of these price trends, my forecast is for slaughter cow prices to follow these seasonal patterns closely," says Gietz.

In the fed cattle market, Gietz is revising the previous month's forecast slightly upward. He is moving June Alberta Direct Steers from $88/cwt. to $89/cwt. and July from $86/cwt. to $87/cwt. He sees August Alberta Direct Steers at $85/cwt.

"My revised forecasts are based on a weaker Canadian dollar and the relative strength of the U.S. market," says Gietz.

Gietz has identified the Canadian dollar as a factor to watch. He notes that the dollar has continued to erode under the concerns about public debt. The weaker dollar has translated into higher prices for Canadian livestock producers. He adds that with the spring budget season behind us, the currency could stabilize or possibly increase in value.

Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

Buyer uncertainty still factor in wheat market

Uncertainty over Russian and Chinese wheat purchases for the current and coming year have weighed heavily on the market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"U.S. wheat futures have been on a steady decline since mid-April," says Larry Ruud.

Ruud adds China has an Export Enhancement Program balance of five million tonnes remaining and doesn't appear to be in a rush to buy U.S. wheat.

With U.S. winter wheat crops looking good and spring wheat plantings not facing the same delays as corn and soybeans, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made its first forecast for the U.S. wheat crop. The forecast is marking the U.S. wheat crop at 68 million tonne, up two per cent from last year. The USDA also forecast world wheat trade to remain virtually unchanged at 100 million tonnes.

Ruud says total wheat acres across the Prairies and in Alberta will decline this year. "The market signals for wheat seem to be starting to show up in acreage estimates. The prospects for a decline in price this coming year, particularly for grades other than #1, looks to be hitting home."

Other factors have also influenced planting intentions for this year. Improved moisture conditions in the south and more favorable prices for higher quality oats, canola and special crops have had an effect.

"Hard red spring and durum wheat look to be targeted the most for reduced acres by farmers this year," notes Ruud.

Despite an overall decrease in wheat acreage, an increase in soft wheat acres is realistic given the lower quality experienced in 1992 and consequently tighter stocks.

Ruud says Prairie spring wheat acreage appears to be on the rise. The higher yield on CPS wheat and prospects that the crop will be easy to move into both the domestic and offshore markets has enticed growers to increase acres this year.

Internationally, Ruud sees wheat production prospects to be within two per cent of last year's level.

"With what appears to be stable production this year, the market has focused heavily of foreign demand for wheat in the short and long term. If some positive direction does not come on the demand side this summer and the U.S. wheat crop continues to see favorable weather, Chicago wheat futures could slip to $2.75 per bushel," notes Ruud.

He adds long-term support rests near $2.50 per bushel, meaning initial payments will likely be lower come August 1, 1993.

"There continues to be no incentive to holding wheat stocks into the next crop year so I suggest continuing delivery to the Canadian Wheat Board, as quota permits," says Ruud.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Keep close watch on volatile canola market

The canola market remains volatile and producers should keep a close watch on the market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"A fair degree of uncertainty surrounds demand prospects through the summer months and consequently, how tight stocks levels will be into the 1993/94 crop year," says Larry Ruud.

Ruud explains the nearby June contract has been extremely volatile since mid-April. "There is a real risk that the June contract could trade at par or only a small premium to the fall contracts."

While the domestic crushing pace remains up six per cent from last year's level, offshore demand has been sporadic. Mexico has purchased Canadian canola when the price has been favorable. At the same time, Japanese demand has been below historical levels.

Ruud says weather will be a factor for fall contracts, but should not be a major factor for the June contract as canola crop development is in its initial stages in mid-June and U.S. soybean planting has already been delayed.

"The current tight trading range of around $310 per tonne on fall contracts will likely continue unless weather becomes a major factor as the crop starts to develop," says Ruud.

Weather rallies to $320 per tonne are quite possible and should be a signal to sell for those wishing to lock in more of their production he adds.

He also suggests keeping a close eye on the basis levels that could narrow for fall delivery if the current demand continues to draw down stocks and weather becomes a factor.

"This would especially be true for those contracts for delivery in August/early September," emphasizes Ruud.

Ruud adds that basis levels tend to be narrower during May and June and then rise through to the fall period into the $45 to $55 per tonne range.

"For crop remaining in the bin, you should consider selling canola on June contract rallies to $325 per tonne.

"For fall deliveries, rallies to $320 per tonne should be considered as a sell signal," adds Ruud.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

World animal production conference coming to Edmonton

Scientists, managers and policy makers from around the world will be in Edmonton June 28 to July 2 for the VII World Conference on Animal Production (WCAP).

Cont'd on page 5

"Those in attendance will be discussing urgent concerns in animal production and exploring new developments in genetic conservation, biotechnology and information transfer," says Bob Hudson, who is the conference president and a professor of animal science at the University of Alberta.

The theme of the conference is "Animals in Sustainable Agriculture: The Global Challenge". During the conference a range of perspectives on the theme will be presented through short research papers and posters, and in a series of conference sessions. Different topics will be dealt with each day of the conference. The conference begins on June 28 with registration and the opening ceremonies.

Conference topics include problems of sustainability in animal agriculture, sustainable feeding systems, tapping nature's genetic diversity, genes and genotypes in the development of biotechnology, biotechnology and genetic engineering in animal production, animal production systems research in developing countries, grazing and forage utilization, and challenges to the future development of animal production.

"It's a real honor for Alberta to have the opportunity to host this conference which is only held every four years by the World Association for Animal Production," says Hudson. "We're excited about having some of the world's leading animal researchers here, within reach of Alberta's research and technology transfer community."

The conference is being organized by the staffs at the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. They have been working on the project for two years.

Hudson emphasizes he is counting on Alberta's scientists, teachers and policy makers to accept the association's invitation to attend the conference.

The registration fee for the conference is $495 or $225 for students. A full registration entitles the holder to attend all of the conference sessions and functions. It also includes the cost of a book on animal production in Canada, and published plenary and contributed papers.

There are also day and half-day registration rates. The day rate is $100 and the half-day rate is $50. These rates can only be used to a total of $200. Walk-in registrants are welcome to attend.

For more information on the conference or to register, contact the WCAP Secretariat at the Department of Animal Science, 3-10 Agriculture/Forestry Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P5, or call 492-3232.

Contact:	*Dr. Bob Hudson*	*Ross Gould*
	492-3232	*427-5083*

Agri-News briefs

Update on electronic markets

A Canadian satellite makes one U.S. market service more accessible to farmers north of Edmonton says an Alberta Agriculture market economist. (See previous story in May 24, 1993 **Agri-News**.) Both Globalink and FarmDayta^2 use KU-band signals says Lee Melvill. In the past, unlike C-band signals, KU-band signals have been more difficult to receive north of Edmonton without an extremely large dish. However, Globalink is now on a Canadian satellite and is available from anywhere in Alberta. As well, special crops are getting more coverage through at least two services. "Special crops aren't well covered by some of the electronic services. Grassroots and Globalink seem to be the only services that carry detailed information about pulse and other special crops such as birdseed. Neither, however, carry anything about forage seeds," he says. Melvill notes the most current market information is available electronically. Producers however, need to choose the right system and service for their needs. For more information, contact Melvill in Fairview at 835-2291, or the regional marketing economists in Red Deer at 341-7612 or Airdrie at 948-8536; the grain market analyst in Edmonton at 427-5376; or, the special commodities analyst at 427-5387.

Conservation 2000 tour June 23 in Lethbridge

The fourth annual Conservation 2000 research tour will be held in Lethbridge on June 23, 1993. The program offers an exciting line-up of three different tours to choose from. It will be held in conjunction with the International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management for the 21st Century. Those attending will be able to learn more about soil conservation and will also have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with researchers and scientists from around the world who are attending the international conference. The tours leave the University of Lethbridge Student's Union Building at 1:00 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. for a barbecue. There is no registration fee for this year's tour. For more information contact your local Alberta Pool elevator, or call JoAnne Meents at 1-800-332-1416.

Coming agricultural events

4-H On Parade
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 4-6
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

4-H Regional Days
Westerner Exposition Association
Red Deer June 5-7
Lynn Stegman - 340-7005 - Red Deer

Livestock judging seminar
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 7-9
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Joint Alberta Women's Institute and Women of Unifarm convention
Olds College
Olds June 8-10
AWI - 469-1254 - Edmonton; Women of Unifarm - 451-4912 - Edmonton

19th Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer June 15-17
Pat Kennedy - 340-5307 - Red Deer

Western Canadian Farm Progress Show
Exhibition Park
Regina, Saskatchewan June 16-19
Gail Lambert - (306)781-9200 - Regina, Saskatchewan

Society for Range Management (Northern Great Plains section/ Prairie-Parkland chapter) summer tour and meeting
Cypress Hills Provincial Park, Saskatchewan June 17-19
Daryl Tumbach - (306)-662-2464 - Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences
Clearly International Centre
Windsor, Ontario June 17-19
CFBS - (613)234-9555 - Ottawa, Ontario

6th annual Alberta Cowboy Poet Gathering
Pincher Creek Fairgrounds and Community Hall
Pincher Creek June 18-20
Anne Stevick - 627-4733 - Pincher Creek; Bev Barr - 628-2115 - Cowley

Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute Conference'93
Gull Harbour Resort
Hecla Island, Manitoba June 19-21
CFIEI - (416)632-8483 - Burlington, Ontario

International Workshop on Sustainable Land Management for the 21st Century
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge June 20-26
Cindy LaValley - 329-2244 - Lethbridge

Alberta Beef Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer June 22-24
Pat Kennedy - 347-4491 - Red Deer

Four County Seeding Project Field Day
Stettler June 23
Michele Buchwitz - 742-4441 - Stettler

Fourth Annual Conservation 2000 Research Tour
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge June 23
JoAnne Meents - 1-800-332-1416 - or 290-4648 Calgary

Wanham Plowing Match
Wanham, Alberta June 25-27
Shirley Wells - 694-3915 - Warham

VII World Conference on Animal Production
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton June 28 to July 2
Dr. Bob Hudson - 492-3232 - Edmonton

Breton Plots field day (Forages - Underrated Crops)
Breton June 30
Jim Robertson - 492-3242 or 492-0191 - Edmonton

Alberta Ram Test Station sale
Olds Cow Palace
Olds July 3
Kim Stanford - 381-5150 - Lethbridge

64th Canadian Feed Industry Association Annual Meeting & Convention
The Westin Hotel, Calgary
Calgary July 5-7
Christine Mercier - (613)238-6421 - Ottawa, Ontario

Fibre Week
Olds College
Olds July 5-9
Extension services - 556-8344 - Olds

4th International Livestock Environment Symposium
Warwick Conference Centre
Coventry, England July 6-9
Jon Hiler - (616)429-0300 - St. Joseph, Missouri;
Eldridge Collins - (703)231-7600 - Blacksburg, Virgina

Western Canada Agronomy Workshop
Capri Hotel
Red Deer July 7-9
Dr. Terry Roberts - 345-4460 - Coaldale

World Potato Congress and Exposition
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island July 7-9
Congress office - (902)368-8885 - Charlottetown, PEI

The North American
Spruce Meadows
Calgary July 7-11
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

Parkland Arabian Horse Show
Westerner Park
Red Deer July 8-11
Ann Emery - 845-6285 - Rocky Mountain House

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Stampede Grounds
Calgary July 9-18
Joan McEvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

International Agricultural Economics Conference: Joint Annual Meetings of the WAEA and the CAEFMS
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Edmonton July 11-14
Michele Veeman or Jim Copeland - (403)492-4228 - Edmonton

Hort Week
Olds College
Olds July 18-23
Extension services - 556-8344 - Olds

Unifarm summer council meeting
Wainwright July 20-21
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

Westerner Days
Westerner Park
Red Deer July 20-25
Noreen Onofryszyn - 343-7800 - Red Deer

Chinook Applied Research Association/Agriculture Service Board Summer Tour
Special Area 4
Consort area - July 21
Dianne Westerlund - 664-3777 - Oyen

Alberta Galloway Association annual meeting
Medicine Hat Lodge
Medicine Hat July 23
Mike Page - 548-6622

Canadian Galloway Association annual meeting
Medicine Hat Lodge
Medicine Hat July 23-25
Mike Page - 548-6622

1st International Bison Conference
La Crosse Convention Centre
La Crosse, Wisconsin July 27-31
Canadian Bison Association - (204)822-3219 - Morden, Manitoba

Wild Rose Quarter Horse Show
Westerner Park
Red Deer July 28 - August 1
Jackie Harke - 727-2131 - Evansburg

39th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology
Calgary August 1-6
Andre Fortin - (613)993-6002 - Ottawa, Ontario

1993 Whoop-Up Days - Annual summer agricultural fair and rodeo
Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge August 2-8
Twyla Gurr - 328-4491 - Lethbridge

Annual conference Agricultural Institute of Canada "Food: Security and Nutrition"
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland August 18-22
Donna Kelland (709)729-5090 - St. John's, Newfoundland; Sale Sudom - (709)772-6064 - St. John's, Newfoundland

A FEASTival of Fine Chefs
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton August 25
Joan Foage, Alberta Food Processors Association - 444-2272 - Edmonton

Alberta Meat Goat Test Station Field Day
Olds College
Olds August 28
Kim Stanford - 381-5150 - Lethbridge

Canadian Natural Fibre Association Conference and Seminar
Chestermere Lake Community Centre
Calgary August 28-29
Kim Stanford - 381-5150 - Lethbridge

Alberta Hunter Horse Show
Westerner Park
Red Deer August 28-29
Sue Cook - 242-7487 - Calgary

The Masters and Equi-Fair
Spruce Meadows
Calgary September 8-12
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

Canadian National Dressage Championships
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 10-12
Crystal Oxtoby - 239-9556 - Calgary

1993 Western Nutrition Conference
Marlborough Hotel
Calgary September 15-17
Dr. Jerome Martin - 492-3029 - Edmonton

Horse Improvement
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 18-19
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary or Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

Canadian Cattle Penning Finals
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary September 18-19
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

4th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare
Edinburgh, Scotland September 18-21
J. Savory - 031 440 2726 - Roslin, Scotland

Horse Improvement
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 25-26
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary or Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

Equipment Manufacturers Institute 100th anniversary
Fairmont Hotel
Chicago, Illinois September 25-27
CFIEI - (416)632-8483 - Burlington, Ontario

Canadian Reined Cowhorse Supreme
Westerner Park
Red Deer October 1-3
Terry Loree - 556-2640 - Olds

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise October 5-7
Rod Chernos - 948-8533 - Airdrie

National Quarter Horse Show
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary October 6-10
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

International Dairy Federation groups of experts meeting (Topic is protein standardization in milk)
Banff Centre
Banff October 7-8
P. Jeleu - 492-2480 - Edmonton

Canadian Cutting Horse Futurity
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary October 14-16
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Westerner Fall Dairy Show
Westerner Park
Red Deer November 2-3
Marg Whyte - 343-7800 - Red Deer

Prairie West Horticultural trade show
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton November 4-5
Judith Grant - 489-1991 - Edmonton

Alberta Beekeepers Association annual general meeting and convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton November 8-9
Gertie Adair - 489-6949 - Edmonton

Agri-Trade International Farm Equipment and Services exposition
Westerner Park
Red Deer November 10-13
Pat Kennedy - 347-4491 - Red Deer

2nd Annual General Meeting - Canadian Wagyu Association
Crossroads Hotel
Calgary November 18
M.G. Morin - 289-5381 - Calgary

Canadian Team Roping
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary November 19-21
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed in the "Coming Agricultural Events" list. A list of agricultural society fairs was compiled by the community and rural services branch and is available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice form

Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in late 1993? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 26, 1993 to:

Agri-News Editor
Print Media Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed September 6, 1993)

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUN 29

June 14, 1993

Call of the Land celebrates 40 years on Alberta airwaves

What started as two radio novices and a room with only a telephone, 40 years later boasts a daily listening audience of more than 75,000 people across Alberta.

Call of the Land is still a 10 minute agricultural radio feature produced by Alberta Agriculture. Its mandate parallels how the department's 1953 annual report described the new service, as "endeavor(ing) to provide news pertaining to the latest practices, scientific discoveries and information affecting agriculture".

Both radio and agriculture have changed in the last 40 years, and Call of the Land has kept up with advances in both communications technology and the broadening of the province's most basic industry.

On March 16, 1953 when Ev McCrimmon and his staff walked into the new offices of the radio and information branch, they found a telephone sitting on the floor of an empty room in the old Terrace Building. Their first Call of the Land program was due to hit the airwaves two weeks later. McCrimmon recalls they didn't panic, but got down to the business of preparing for their first broadcasts.

McCrimmon and the other first voice of Call of the Land, Stu Wilton, didn't have their own tape recorders or studio. In fact for the first year and half, Call of the Land was recorded for broadcast at the Edmonton studios of CKUA. Six copies of the broadcast were made for the stations that carried the show and then were mailed out.

Eventually a studio was made at the entrance to a balcony at the now demolished former Terrace Building near the Legislature. Occasionally, Call of the Land went to one of its carrier stations and produced shows with a local flavor. A "portable"—it filled a car's backseat—tape recorder took them out of Edmonton for interviews. They remember often feeling frustrated with the lack of immediacy.

Today, through satellite technology, the program is sent to 17 radio stations in the province every weekday morning for same-day broadcast. It's sent from Call of the Land's permanent studio in the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, the department's headquarters building on Edmonton's south side.

Satellite transmission started in the late 1980s as stations gradually started getting dishes notes Jack Howell, Call of the Land's current and long-time host. Howell, perhaps, has seen the most technology changes during his 23-year tenure at Call of the Land.

When he started in late 1970, portable tape recorders were still reel-to-reel and the program had to be dubbed for each station. Tapes were sent by mail and courier to individual stations. There was at least a two day delay between recording and airing.

Howell has also witnessed major changes in Alberta's agriculture industry. "The processing sector has grown to be as big or bigger than production, so our programming has placed an increased emphasis on the value-added sector," he says.

Each day's program has two to three interviews. Guests range through the diversity of department staff, representatives of farm and commodity organizations, farmers, agribusiness people and researchers.

"The program couldn't happen without tremendous co-operation from all sectors of the industry," acknowledges Howell.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Call of the Land celebrates 40 years on Alberta airwaves 1
Call—or is that, Howell?—of the Land 2
...And radio memories are made of this 3
Holden man learned baler safety the hard way 4
4-H Centre site for elementary level environment camp 5
Outstanding Young Farmer program coming to Westerner 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Its a mutual appreciation notes Ron Brown, head of Alberta Agriculture's broadcast media branch. "There's a real awareness that Call of the Land has a far reach. Its daily audience is pegged at about 75,000," he says.

Brown adds Call of the Land's durability can be attributed to filling a need. "In the beginning, it started because there was a concern the agricultural message wasn't getting out. Now Call of the Land is still filling a void as radio stations with farm directors and specific agricultural programs are gradually dwindling in number."

Ernie Isley, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, agrees the program is important. "I think Call of the Land is probably one of the most important communication tools the department has."

Call of the Land can be heard on the following stations at the listed times: CKHL 530, High Level, 12:35 p.m.; CKUA 580, Edmonton, 12:20 p.m.; CKYL 610, Peace River, 2:35 p.m.; CFCW 790, Camrose, 12:50 p.m.; CKKY 830, Wainwright, 12:30 p.m.; CJXX 840; Grande Prairie, 1:04 p.m.; CKBA 850, Athabasca, 12:30 p.m.; CKVH 1020, High Prairie, 12:30 p.m.; CFGP 1050, Grande Prairie, 1:05 p.m.; CKSA 1080, Lloydminster, 12:19 p.m.; CKGY 1170, Red Deer, 12:20 p.m.; CKWA 1210, Slave Lake, 12:30 p.m.; CHAT 1270, Medicine Hat, 12:50 p.m.; CHRB 1280, High River, 12:20 p.m.; CHLW 1310, St. Paul, 12:30 p.m.; CIBQ 1340, Brooks, 12:15 p.m.; CFOK 1370, Westlock, 12:30 p.m.; CJOI 1440, Wetaskiwin, 12:30 p.m.; and, CFEZ 1570, Taber, 12:20 p.m.

Call of the Land is also heard every day at 12:20 p.m. on CKUA-FM services at the following frequencies and locations: 101.3MHz, Red Deer; 100.9MHz, Grande Prairie; 99.3MHz, Lethbridge; 97.3MHz, Medicine Hat; 97.5MHz, Lloydminster; 96.9MHz, Peace River; 94.9MHz, Edmonton; 93.7MHz, Calgary; 91.9MHz, Drumheller; 102.5MHz, Hinton; 103.7MHz, Edson; and, 107.1MHz, Whitecourt.

Contact: *Jack Howell* *427-2127* *Ron Brown* *427-2127*

Call—or is that, Howell?—of the Land

For the vast majority of Call of the Land's daily audience, the voice is instantly recognizable, even if they've missed the standard opening: "Good afternoon everyone, Jack Howell here again with Call of the Land".

For nearly 23 years, more than half of the program's 40 year history, Jack Howell has been behind the microphone of Alberta Agriculture's weekday, 10 minute Call of the Land radio broadcast. The once Dunblane, Saskatchewan farm boy is now an institution in the Alberta agriculture and food industry.

"He's one of the best," says Hoss Hammer, of CKGY of Red Deer, another recognizable agricultural voice. Hammer, a member of Alberta Agriculture's Hall of Fame, began broadcasting in 1956 and is known as the "voice of agriculture in central Alberta".

"Jack has got the respect of agriculture in Alberta, bar none. He's a gem," adds Hammer, who also describes Howell as adding "a touch of class" to agricultural airwaves through his dedication, research, keeping his audience up-to-date and his refreshing attitude of always being available and helpful.

Dennis Laycraft, current general manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, describes Howell as an institution. His own working relationship goes back a dozen years to when Laycraft joined the Alberta Cattle Commission. The program and Howell provide two valuable benefits to the agriculture industry he says—dealing with a well-informed interviewer and an excellent medium for getting out the message to a broader group of people.

"He probably gets more with a few questions, than talking to someone else for a long time," says Laycraft. "He knows the industry and the key issues so well that he asks questions very effectively."

A modest Howell throws kudos back at the industry. He says his success and the durability of Call of the Land wouldn't have been possible without excellent co-operation from all sectors of the agriculture industry.

Howell adds all the provincial agriculture ministers he's worked with—nine in total—have also been very co-operative and accessible to explain agricultural policy to Call of the Land listeners.

Former and current colleagues also see not only how well Howell has done his job, but also the difference in Howell himself. Warren Wismer hired Howell in October 1970. He remembers Howell as "painfully shy, but a determined young fellow".

Howell joined the department in 1969 after completing a BSc in agriculture degree at the University of Alberta and an agricultural diploma program at the University of Saskatchewan. He began training as a district agriculturist.

Five months later, the department began looking for a new Call of the Land host. Howell had always had an interest in radio and decided to apply. At an in-service training meeting in Olds, Howell talked to the soon-to-depart radio commentator about the position.

"He told me he was really interested," recalls Phil Thomas, now supervisor of oilseed crops at the department's Field Crops Development Centre in Lacombe. "We talked for about three hours. I took his name and enthusiasm back to my boss, Warren Wismer."

Wismer, now retired, says Howell has done remarkably well over the years both in establishing an information network throughout the industry and in his rapport with media outlets across the province.

Call of the Land requires extensive contact with the industry. Each 10 minute broadcast requires two to three interviews. An events calendar, that closes each program, is constantly full. For Howell, that has meant countless interviews with the diverse range of Alberta Agriculture specialists across the province.

Information sources aren't limited to the department. Call of the Land guests cover the full spectrum of farm and commodity

Cont'd on page 3

groups, other government levels and province's officials, farmers, agribusiness people, academics, researchers and even visiting trade and research delegations from around the globe.

Howell has also travelled to the stories, around the province mostly. But he's also been to every Canadian province, twice to Alaska, once to the former Soviet Union, last year to Mexico and in the past made an annual trek to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

With a solid listening audience of about 75,000 people each day through the network of stations across the province, Call of the Land continues to bring its long standing tradition of connecting the agricultural industry to its various parts. And, for many of today's audience who grew up listening to Jack Howell, the program and the man will be inextricably linked.

...And radio memories are made of this

Forty years of a continuing daily radio program couldn't go by without memorable interviews, equipment changes, equipment failures and people who put the shows together.

For Alberta Agriculture's Call of the Land those memories cover a gamut from microphone-terrified guests and the movement to satellite technology, to a melted crystal on a simmering Medicine Hat afternoon and the medley of voices who hosted the 10-minute broadcast since it began on April 1, 1953.

The first two of those voices belonged to Ev McCrimmon and Stuart Wilton. They started from the proverbial "scratch" walking into an empty, except for a telephone, office two weeks before their first broadcast. They didn't even have their own studio until a year and half later. They lacked a lot of what today is taken for granted in modern technological conveniences in the world of radio. A portable tape recorder is one example.

"When I first started there was no portable tape recorder," says Wilton, who went on to be long-time Olds College instructor and retired in 1984. Bentley born and raised, he came to Call of the Land from university.

All the early interviews were recorded in a studio—but not their own. They used CKUA's Edmonton studio. Recording over the phone wasn't done as the line was full of constant beeping when recording equipment was used.

Wilton adds they eventually graduated to a "large" portable recorder that comfortably fit in the backseat of a car. This led to a melted crystal in the microphone in Medicine Hat when temperatures reached 125°F.

Lacking interview experience, pauses always seemed to go on forever remembers Wilton. To fill in the gap he developed the habit of saying "I see". At least until his father admonished him to, "Stop saying that". Wilton played back some tapes, then dropped his ritual phrase.

Both McCrimmon and Wilton have never forgotten one field crops extension specialist who was terrified of being interviewed and consequently wasn't a very good interview. Laughs Wilton, "The nervous ones you remember."

But they cooked up a strategy to cope with his nerves. Their apprehensive guest was taken into the studio. He was told to help him out they'd do a rehearsal first. So he relaxed, and the questions and answers flowed freely. When finished the "rehearsal" the guest's anxiety returned. He didn't have to worry. Secretary-writer Marilyn Sears (now Thompson) had turned on the microphone and recording equipment when they went in the studio. But recalls Wilton, that only worked once.

McCrimmon, who went on to a long public relations career and is now retired in Ontario, says there were also hard lessons. Not with equipment failure, but in failing to check equipment. He went to Lacombe, did what he remembers as "an excellent interview", returned to Edmonton and discovered a blank tape. "I never left an interview without checking the tape after that," he says.

Both appreciated the travel their jobs included, especially their first trip to the Peace country in the far north west of the province. Wilton describes his first visit as the "biggest surprise" he got. McCrimmon recalls an interview with a farmer who grew potatoes, corn and tomatoes in the Peace River Valley. The farmer credited his success to his water source. McCrimmon still remembers the farmer's vivid description of the spring as, "It comes out of the ground as big as a barrel".

Both Wilton and McCrimmon left Call of the Land in 1955. They were followed by Ed Hamula and Scott Flewitt. In the early 1960s the radio branch expanded to include television. At the same time, Warren Wismer and John Andrew joined the branch and became involved with Call of the Land.

Although he'd been living and working in Saskatchewan, Wismer had heard Call of the Land. It could be picked up where he was living in Saskatoon. He did the radio show full time for about three years before getting more involved on the television side.

Wismer recalls the times as "fun" with a young staff, and full of opportunity to do new and innovative things. Some of those set the framework for the variety of services the current information services division offers the department and the public. As well, he remembers with pride that the department was recognized as providing the best agricultural information services in Canada.

Andrew came to the department in 1962. He stayed for 23 years, retiring as the director of the communications division. He's still a Call of the Land listener, particularly if he's travelling in his car at broadcast time.

Like many of his colleagues, Andrew has vivid memories of covering the Royal Winter Fair every November in Toronto. They were strenuous, long days working on both radio and television stories and moving around the 20 plus acres of the fair site on the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) grounds next to Lake Ontario.

In those days, the total daily living allowance was a princely $16 he says. That exactly equalled the cost of staying at the landmark Royal York Hotel in nearby downtown Toronto. "I stayed there and paid for everything else myself," he says.

Cont'd on page 4

Current Call of the Land host, Jack Howell, also remembers going to the Toronto agricultural fair. His memories are of heavy portable tape recorders and tramping over the 28 acres of the CNE grounds to get the stories of the day carrying the burdensome equipment.

Howell, who has been part of Call of the Land since 1970, has been the longest serving voice of the program. Before him in the 1960s, the show hosts included Lynn Malmberg, Don Potter, Doug Pettit and Phil Thomas.

Thomas, who often travelled on his motorbike to interviews, is recalled for a particularly unusual interview. To shelter his tape recorder from background noises, he placed it at the rear of the truck. His startled guest was almost run over when the driver decided to move on.

During the 1980s, Gerard Vaillancourt was also a Call of the Land commentator. He recalls his most notable Call of the Land experience as a live show done from the University of Alberta. Unfortunately, the transmitting station lost the feed in mid-show. Vaillancourt and Howell didn't know and carried on. "We had the 'excitement' of going live for naught," remembers Vaillancourt.

Howell, who has been the man behind the microphone for the past 23 years, remembers spending his first day on the job observing. "I remember taking note of all the machines and wondering if I'd ever master what to do with all of them," he says.

Changes in technology have allowed Howell to make Call of the Land more timely without the delays of sending tapes to individual stations. Now the program is sent by satellite every morning for broadcast later in the day.

Like many of his predecessors, Howell values the people he's met, the travel opportunities he's had and the growth of the program. It's expanded from an original six stations to a total of 17.

The roots of the program have allowed the opportunities and challenges. McCrimmon says one of the things that still stands out for him 40 years later is "the amount of freedom we had to develop programs and ideas" as well as being able to travel to the stories.

The other original, Wilton, echoes the sentiment of the scope they tried to cover—wide enough for a provincial audience—and the directions set in the earliest days of the program. "One thing I found with that job, found in an agricultural program, was that agriculture covers a terrific range," he says. "I'm glad to have had the opportunity to have gone nearly everywhere in Alberta."

Holden man learned baler safety the hard way

It was a day Merv Copeland should have stayed in bed, or so he says in remembering the day he lost both his arms in a farm accident.

"I attribute the accident to overworking and stress," adds Copeland, who farms near Holden about 80 km east of Edmonton. After several weeks of working long hours combining, Copeland woke up at 5 a.m. to start baling. But, the baler he'd planned to use needed five hours of repairs before it was field-ready. "By the time I got to the field, my sense of humor was not what it should have been," he says.

Trouble with the baler continued, so Copeland got off his tractor to walk around the unit. He stepped on a rock, twisted his ankle and fell into the still-running baler. He isn't sure how long he was caught in the baler, but estimates it took between an hour and an hour and a half to free himself.

"I had walked part way home when I decided I should go back and shut off the tractor. I went back, but because of my injuries, I couldn't climb in the cab. I thought to myself, why worry about shutting it off now—just to save a little gas," he remembers.

Although Copeland's accident wasn't a typical baler incident, a few safety precautions could have saved him from injury. The accident could have been prevented by turning off the tractor and disengaging the power take-off (PTO) before he went to examine the baler.

"One of the simplest of all safety rules is to shut off the tractor before you get off it," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager. "That means shutting down whether you're making a repair or checking to see if the baler is plugged. Another very important safety measure is to only allow trained persons to operate the baler or bale handling equipment."

Other safety recommendations include: wearing close fitting clothing and tucking hair inside a hat; never ejecting a bale where it can roll into buildings, machinery, fences or people; using tractors with front-end loaders properly fitted to handle large bales; driving slowly; and, avoiding sudden movements.

Copeland has his own list of suggestions for safety around equipment. He emphasizes the importance of shutting down machinery any time the operator leaves it. He supports kill-switches built into the seats or doors of equipment, so when the operator leaves the cab, the machine shuts down immediately.

Two-way radio communication in all major equipment and regularly scheduled coffee and meal breaks are two of his other safety suggestions. In addition, he reminds people to take a break for an hour from projects that are causing stress because they're not going well.

Where children are involved, Copeland suggests they should be taught early that machinery will not be started until the operator can see they are clear of the equipment, and are preferably at the house.

"I was one of those people who wanted everything to happen right now, but I now know that we have to slow down and think," says Copeland. "The world wasn't made in a day and we can't farm it all in one day either.

"What doesn't get done today will still be there tomorrow and if you get hurt or killed you will never get it finished."

This fall will mark 18 years since Copeland lost his arms. The changes in his life have been many. Although still independent, he has had to rely more heavily on his family. He has also had to deal with the emotional and financial stress related to the accident. The financial stress came from having to convince his banker and other people that he was still capable of running his farm.

Copeland says that he knows it is hard for people who are middle-aged to change their ways, but he notes its importance. He also says that teaching children as young as four and five is a key to improving our safety record.

"It is up to us to teach children to be smarter than we are," says Copeland.

Contact: *Solomon Kyeremanteng*
427-2186

4-H Centre site for elementary level environment camp

A new environmental appreciation camp for elementary school students is being launched at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake this month.

"The camp will encourage elementary students to learn about the natural and human history of Battle Lake, while instilling values and skills designed to build environmentally aware citizens of the future," says Vicki Berger, secretary-manager of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

The first camps run this month (June) and next fall. All will be held at the Alberta 4-H Centre located at Battle Lake. The site, one and a half hours southwest of Edmonton, is on 143 acres of scenic lakeshore property. Facilities include a modern dormitory, an environmental centre for indoor activities, a comfortable lodge for dining and gatherings, a beach area, several kilometres of trails and plenty of sports facilities.

Berger describes the camp activities as "multi-disciplinary", featuring a blending of science, social studies, language arts, physical education, music, drama and art. Canoeing the lake, hiking the trails, re-creating the erosion process and participating in native cultural traditions are combined with educational objectives, to make learning at the camp a fun experience.

"The camp meets the requirements of both 4-H and the Alberta Education curriculum," says Berger.

Two different camps are available. The three-day camp takes students on a complete Battle Lake journey. The four-day camp adds an overnight camp out under the stars. Bookings for camps are now being taken for September/October 1993 and May/June 1994.

The environmental appreciation camp was made possible by a grant from the Environmental Partners Fund. The camp program was designed with supervision from the 4-H Foundation of Alberta and support from the Edmonton Catholic School Board.

For environment camp booking arrangements or more information, contact Vicki Berger at the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, Box 550, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2K8 or 427-2541.

The Alberta 4-H Centre is also available for retreats, conferences and family reunions. Site managers, Vern and Shirley Schneider, can provide more details. For more information, contact them at 682-2153.

Contact: *Vicki Berger*
427-2541

Outstanding Young Farmer program coming to Westerner

Alberta's part of the national Outstanding Young Farmer program is coming to Red Deer and Westerner Days.

"Our Northwest Regional Committee is pleased to announced the regional event will be held July 23 and 24 in conjunction with Western Days," says Norman Storch, committee member and an Outstanding Young Farmer alumnus.

"The Westerner is an enthusiastic participant in the program, so we look forward to lots of fun and fellowship in Red Deer," he adds.

The national Outstanding Young Farmers program is operated by the Canada Jaycees and sponsored by John Deere. It's designed to recognize farmers between the ages of 18 and 39 who exemplify exceptional achievement in production, marketing, conservation and community leadership. The program also strives to promote greater awareness in urban Canada of the importance of agriculture in the Canadian economy.

Winners at the Alberta program in Red Deer will go on to represent the northwest at a national program later this year.

Alberta nominees will participate in interviews, a barbecue and a banquet, as well as have time to "stroll the Westerner grounds" says Storch.

The regional program's continuing, long-time sponsors are Esso and the Calgary East Jaycees.

Nomination forms for the Outstanding Young Farmer program are available from the Westerner in Red Deer at 343-7800, or FAX 341-4699.

For more information on the program, contact Storch at 854-2593, or Noreen Stuart at the Westerner at 343-7800.

Contact: *Noreen Stuart* *Norman Storch*
343-7800 *854-2593*

Agri-News briefs

Feed markets drift lower in June and July

An Alberta Agriculture market analyst expects feed markets to drift lower during June and July. These two months tend to be heavy delivery months as bin space is made available for the oncoming crops says Larry Ruud. "Farmers holding potential malt quality barley start to move it out into the local feed market during the summer months," says Ruud. As well, the initial payment for barley will likely climb on August 1 and will have the tendency to pull the market lower through the summer months. Western barley futures have the potential to slip $10/tonne from the current $96 level. Only a weather rally will sustain current levels or push the market higher. On the outside, the market continues to remain quite strong for number one and number two grades. The export pace is holding as U.S. demand remains strong. A recent USDA report suggests U.S. oat production could decline by 17 per cent this year. The USDA also forecasts U.S. import requirements will increase in 1993-94 to 940,000 tonnes from the current estimate for 1992-93 of 730,000 tonnes. "This will be a positive for oat prices come next fall," says Ruud. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Hog prices expected to decline

Gradual price declines are expected in the hog market from July onward says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Price declines should come as a result of increased pork supplies and a widening producer price-retail margins," says Ron Gietz. Gietz forecasts monthly average prices for Index-100 hogs at $1.50/kg dressed during July, falling to $1.45 in August and to $1.30/kg by October. These forecast prices are higher than year-ago prices from July to September, but will be about the same as October last year. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Lamb producers holding lambs use caution

An Alberta Agriculture market analyst has a caution for producers who want to target their slaughter lambs for markets later in the fall when prices are expected to improve. "The gains in price might not offset the increased feeding costs, or offset discounts for quality if the lambs get too heavy," says Jo Ann Sandhu. She adds heavy lambs will probably find a ready market in the U.S. this fall. However, if the value of the Canadian dollar increases relative to the U.S. dollar, then gains in U.S. market prices for slaughter lambs might not be sufficient to offset increased feeding costs in Canada. For more information, contact Sandhu in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Western Canada agronomy workshop July 7-8

The Western Canada Fertilizer Association (WCFA) will hold their research and education workshop July 7-9 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. The workshop will address recent developments in fertilizer technology, nutrient management, production systems, pest management and biological control. The workshop is designed for innovative farmers, extension workers, university and government researchers, fertilizer dealers, industry agronomists and others interested in the application of agronomic technology. As well as conference sessions, a field tour and demonstrations will be part of the workshop. Registration costs are $80 per person and that includes meals and the workshop proceedings. For more information contact, Dr. Terry Roberts, Potash and Phosphate Institute of Canada, 2204-19 Street, Coaldale, Alberta, T1M 1E8, telephone 345-4460 or Fax 345-4454, or contact Doug Beaver, Sherrit Fertilizers, 3500 Manulife Place, 10180-101 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S4, telephone 493-8700 and FAX 493-8792.

Legal farmers wins Dairy Congress forage competition

Dan and Dave Nonay of Lakeside Dairy in Legal claimed the title of best forage at the 1993 Alberta Dairy Congress competition. Their winning entry was in the legume hay class. This is the third consecutive year that the winner of the legume hay class has been named the overall competition winner. The Nonays also placed fourth in the haylage class. Other class winners were: Brian Kurpjuweit of Seven Persons in grass-legume hay mixture; Marvin and Denise Kneller of Rollyview for grass hay; Joe Deunk of Leduc in haylage; and, J.P. VanderVeen of Calmar for cereal silage. Vanderveen also placed in two other classes, third in grass hay and fourth in grass-legume hay mixture. The top five placings in each class were on display at the recent congress in Leduc. For more information about the congress or the forage competition, contact the Alberta Dairy Congress office in Leduc at 986-8108, or the Alberta Agriculture district office in Leduc at 986-8985.

Cont'd on page 7

CSGA 89th annual meeting July 7-9 in B.C.

The Canadian Seed Growers Association will hold their 89th annual meeting, July 7 through 9 at Fort St. John, British Columbia. The annual meeting program will focus on northern agriculture and its history. Featured will be creeping red fescue, its development and economic contribution to the area. Also up for discussion are access to farm financing and other inputs given the increasing emphasis on environmental safety and long-term liability questions. Two Saturday tour options offer day-long tours in the Peace River Valley. For more information on the conference, contact the British Columbia branch of the CSGA at 350, 10003-110 Avenue, Fort St. John, British Columbia V1J 6M7, telephone (604) 787-3240 or FAX (604) 787-3299.

Olds College Hort Week July 18-23

This year's Hort Week at Olds College will offer a wealth of commercial horticulture and floriculture courses for both the novice and professional. Hort Week runs from July 18 to 23. The event has been a tradition at Olds College for nearly 30 years. It brings together industry professionals and qualified instructors. The event offers many learning opportunities including: commercial floral design schools; business programs; Flowers Canada accreditation programs; landscape and gardening programs; commercial horticulture programs; horticultural judging schools; arts and crafts courses; and, evening activities. For more information, on the Hort Week contact Geraldine Byrne at 556-8254, or Annelise Doolaege at 556-8240.

REDA offers youth leadership programs

For the 31st year the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) is offering leadership programs for young Albertans. Three program levels are offered. The first is teen seminars for 13 and 14-year-olds, if they've not previously attended a REDA teen seminar. Three teen seminars are available: July 20 to 26, July 26 to August 1 and August 1 to 7. Youth seminars are available July 8 to 14 and July 14 to 20. If you attended a REDA youth seminar or an equivalent leadership program and have not previously attended a grad seminar, you are eligible to attend a grad seminar. The grad seminar is offered to people age 16 to 19 years of age as of January 1, 1993. The dates of the grad seminar are July 1 to 8. Grad seminar participants are eligible to be chosen for exchange programs. The basic course teaches teens about leadership skills and community living, they also learn about co-operatives and agriculture's importance in Alberta. The second level of the program explores many of the same subject areas but in more depth. At the grad seminar, young people learn more about community leadership as well as developing life skills such as applying for and being interviewed for a job, finding a place to live and understanding global issues. All the programs are held at the Goldeye Centre, 10 km west of Nordegg on the David Thompson highway. For more information, contact REDA at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 2N9 or phone 451-5959.

The Great Taste of the West on video

A new Alberta Agriculture video, "Alberta Beef - The Great Taste of the West" replaces one of the same title. The dynamic marketing and promotional film encourages wholesalers outside of Alberta to buy Alberta beef. The video emphasizes changes in the primary grading system for marbling, rigorous inspection practices and the high quality of Alberta beef. The video is 16 minutes long. It is available for loan from the department's central film library in Edmonton. For more information, write the Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

National home economics association looks at sustainable development

The Canadian Home Economics Association will look at what is sustainable development at an international development workshop July 10 and 11 in Windsor. The workshop will be held at the University of Windsor. On the workshop program is Peter Padbury, of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, who will discuss redefining sustainable development. Discussion groups will look at equity and justice in a turbulent world; using an integrated, long-term approach to achieve sustainability; and, participation as an essential factor. A panel discussion will feature how to educate the community about sustainable development. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of whether sustainable development is an oxymoron or whether you can have your cake and eat it too. For more information, contact Pat Ulrich of the Canadian Home Economics Association at 901, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3.

Stampede blacksmith contest draws record participant number

Seventy-five contestants from 15 countries will compete at this year's world championship blacksmiths' competition July 11 through 13 in Calgary. The record number of entrants will compete for more than $12,000 in prize money. The contest is hosted by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. This 14th annual competition also features two women competitors from California. For more information, contact Donna Montgomery at 240-9820, or Karen Legault at 261-0271 or toll free 1-800-661-1260 (North America).

Phone: (403) 427-2121

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June 21, 1993

Peel and stick launch for national farm safety week

Alberta Agriculture is launching a new safety promotion to kick off national farm safety week in 1993. "We're incorporating a couple of unique concepts in this program and in the promotion of national farm safety week," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Agriculture farm safety program manager.

The national farm safety awareness week is every July 25-31. Alberta farm safety program is using the week to launch a brand new interactive farm safety activity called "Jasmine and Jerry's peel and stick adventure". "We will be giving away 500 of these peel and stick adventures," says Kyeremanteng. "But this contest comes with a twist," he adds. "For years we've been hearing from children, now it will be the adults' turn."

Adults are asked to answer 'what are you doing to make your farm safer for our future farmers?' The answer can be in 250 words or less and sent to: Farm Safety Program, 2nd Floor J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

The idea for the contest came from years of children's entries and the children teaching children approach that has been used by the program to reduce child fatalities. Alberta Agriculture has invited children's views on farm safety for the last 17 years through poster/essay contests. They've also shared the children's farm safety messages with other children through their annual publication 'A Child's Guide to Farm Safety'.

"One of our recent entries was titled, 'I hope you grown-ups know what you're doing'. This got us thinking about what grown-ups are thinking and doing and whether children could also help them think more about safety. Although our children depend on us for guidance and protection, perhaps there's something adults can learn from the children," says Kyeremanteng.

As part of the awareness program for national farm safety week the program will be using selected posters from six school children from across the province; one from each of Alberta Agriculture's six regions. Their messages include always wear protective clothing when handling chemicals; be careful around moving augers and tractors; be safe by taking out keys when you're done using machinery; to prevent fire, make sure you keep your gas hose up high and locked; always have a fire extinguisher; and lower your auger when transporting. (A list of the children follows.)

"There is a lot of wisdom for such tender years in these entries," says Kyeremanteng. "We've made a dent in the child injury statistics but now it's the adults' turn. Farm accidents are preventable. Children have a good grasp of the rules and now we want to hear from the adults."

The peel and stick adventure is designed for early primary school children. "It's a great way to get a farm safety dialogue going on your farm," he notes.

Contact: *Solomon Kyeremanteng* *427-2186*   *Jacqueline Galloway* *427-2186*

Featured safety message artists

Nicole Burton	Grade 5	Foremost	836-3780
Joel Steinley	Grade 6	Empress	565-3947
Candice Watson	Grade 4	Elnora	773-3657
Becky McAllister	Grade 6	Blackfoot	846-2225
David Driessen	Grade 2	Barrhead	674-5256
Ashley Paulovich	Grade 5	Deadwood	836-2663

This Week

Peel and stick launch for national farm safety week 1
Bean growers should watch for zinc deficiency symptoms 2
Common sense check list for protecting your water 2
Four new equipment evaluations released by AFMRC 3
How to buy and care for rose plants 3
Some roses require Prairie-proofing 4
Smells as sweet and survives Alberta winters 4
Lacombe 4-Her goes to U.K. 5
New faces on 4-H Foundation Board 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Bean growers should watch for zinc deficiency symptoms

Southern Alberta bean growers are advised to keep a close watch on their bean fields over the next few weeks for signs of zinc deficiency say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

During late May and early June, frost damage and pre-emergent herbicide injury have affected some bean fields. "The recent cool temperatures and very moist soil conditions are ideal for inducing zinc deficiency," says Ross McKenzie, soil fertility specialist.

If cool, wet environmental conditions persist during June, up to 20 per cent of bean fields could potentially be affected by zinc deficiency. "We suggest growers scout their fields for zinc deficiency symptoms," says Beata Lees, special crops specialist in Lethbridge.

Zinc deficient plants are stunted and older leaf tissue between the veins are a light green or yellow in color. Veins are a darker green. Tissue between the leaf veins may turn brown. Bronzing may be apparent on older leaves, while new leaves are more normal in color but are abnormally small.

McKenzie points out that zinc deficiency can be confused with other physiological problems, herbicide injury or other nutrient deficiencies. For example, iron deficiency, which is rarely a problem with beans, yellows the interveinal areas of the youngest leaves while veins remain green. "These symptoms are very similar to zinc deficiency and are often confused. However, zinc deficiency symptoms normally occur on older leaves. Iron deficiency tends to be on newer leaves," he says.

If zinc deficiencies are observed in early stages, a foliar application of 0.5 to 1.0 per cent zinc sulphate spray can be applied with 100 to 200 litres of water per hectare. "It's important to check the product container for proper application rates to avoid burning foliage," Lees says.

Soils that are most susceptible to zinc deficiency tend to have: low soil organic matter levels; soil pH higher than 7.5, with high lime; sandy texture; or, a history of high phosphate or manure application.

Producers who need more information should contact their contracting company fieldman, district agriculturist, Lees at 381-5127 or McKenzie at 381-5126.

Contact:	*Beata Lees*	*Ross McKenzie*
	381-5127	*381-5126*

Common sense check list for protecting your water

Spraying season should also include how farmers handle pesticides so they don't damage their valuable water resources says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"A common sense check list will help you prevent any well or water contamination," says Ken Williamson, regional engineering technologist based in Red Deer.

The yard hydrant is often a most common cause of well contamination by pesticides he says. "When yard hydrants shut off they automatically drain themselves. If the hydrant is installed in the well casing or in a well pit, you can have a disaster waiting to happen."

Self draining hydrants are designed to automatically drain when they're shut off. This feature prevents freezing when the hydrant is used in winter. Some hydrants are installed so they drain into the water well when they shut off, and that's where problems can start.

"If a hose is connected to one of these hydrants and the hose's end is placed in a tank of water, the stage is set to syphon water from the sprayer tank back down the well. I've seen this happen before," says Williamson. He adds to protect your well from this possibility, never install a hydrant in a well or well pit and never fill a sprayer directly from your water system. These are just two of Williamson's tips.

Follow label instructions and keep spray equipment maintained and calibrated he recommends. He also suggests farmers should learn about solubility and persistence of pesticides they plan to use. Then they can assess the susceptibility of their soil to erosion and pesticide leaching.

When it comes to spraying, he suggests avoiding the operation a day prior to predicted rain. Reduce spray drifts. Don't fill spray tanks directly from any water source instead use a nurse tank. Store pesticides in a separate room at least one hundred feet from water supplies. Don't wash or transport sprayer equipment in or through a water body.

"Of course, triple rinse empty pesticide containers before disposing of them at an agriculture chemical container site," he notes. Williamson also says farmers should be aware of sensitive areas such as high water tables, standing wells and any surface waters that can easily be contaminated through carelessness.

Another thing to keep in mind is not to spray in or near water courses. "The other thing is to know where you're going to clean and drain your sprayer," he says.

For more information on preventing well contamination, contact Williamson at 340-5324 in Red Deer, Bob Buchanan at 674-8253 in Barrhead or Orin Kenzie at 381-5112 in Lethbridge.

For more information on pesticides, contact your district agriculturist or the soil and crop management branch in Edmonton at 427-7098.

Contact:	*Ken Williamson*
	340-5324

Four new equipment evaluations released by AFMRC

The Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre has released evaluation reports on one company's airseeder, granular herbicide applicator, floating hitch cultivator and a shank mounted ground rod.

The Morris 6130 airseeder, 6028 granular herbicide applicator, 8900 floating hitch cultivator and shank mounted ground rod were field tested in conjunction with each other. "This combination offered by Morris Industries allows the farmer to incorporate a number of field operations," says Greg Magyar, a field technologist at the Lethbridge centre. "This combination is part of a continuing effort to design better conservation equipment combinations," he adds.

Designed for use with different makes and models of cultivators, the airseeder can apply seed and fertilizer. Mounting a granular herbicide applicator on the airseeder frame allows the operator to apply seed, fertilizer, granular chemicals or any combination of these operations at the same time. The floating hitch cultivator and the shank mounted ground rod allow the operator to use conservation tillage practices.

Magyar says the cultivator maintained proper tillage depth in secondary and moist primary soil conditions. With the ground rod attached to the rear row of shanks, the operator can till, seed and pack in one operation. The ground rod, he adds, worked well in levelling the soil surface while maintaining crop residue on the soil surface.

Fertilizer and various grains were tested in the lab with the airseeder. Granular chemicals were tested using the applicator. These tests determined how well the metering and distribution systems worked. Magyar notes metering accuracy was very good for the airseeder and applicator. The airseeder evaluation report #684 and the granular evaluation report #686 include information on metering accuracy, distribution uniformity and spread uniformity.

"During field testing of the floating hitch cultivator we found the cultivator followed the contour of the land very well," says Magyar. "This produced a uniform tillage depth and indicated the shanks maintained proper penetration in varying field conditions. We also evaluated the ground rod and how well the rod penetrated in various field conditions. Typical of ground rods, the tillage unit should be operated at a deeper depth to ensure the ground rod worked properly."

The ground rod didn't work as well in fields with buried residue compared to fields where residue was on the soil surface, he notes. The cultivator evaluation report #682 and the ground rod evaluation report #687 include information on penetration, depth uniformity, residue clearance and soil finishing. Ease of operation and adjustment, power requirements and operator safety were also evaluated for the four units during field testing.

"This season the research centre is evaluating the Morris maxim air drill," says Magyar. The drill is 39 feet wide and has 63 openers spaced at 7.5 inches. The air drill will be used with the 6180 air delivery tank.

For more information about direct seeding and other types of conservation equipment, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre, 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6, or telephone 329-1212.

Contact: Greg Magyar
329-1212

How to buy and care for rose plants

Whether you buy bare rooted or potted roses both will require water and fertilizer throughout the growing season says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"You can buy roses either as a bare rooted plant or in a container," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Research Center in Brooks.

Bare root roses are usually packaged in moist peat moss and then wrapped in waterproof packaging. Bare root roses are usually available in the spring she notes. When buying bare root roses, the plant should have at least three healthy stems, plainly visible leaf buds, cane bark that isn't wrinkled or withered and sprouts not longer than 12 mm. A healthy rose plant is plump and green but don't confuse this with the green wax applied to cane to keep them from dehydrating she adds.

"Container roses are available throughout the growing season. When buying container roses, look for the same qualities as you look for when buying a shrub," she says.

To plant bare root roses, soak the roots overnight in water. Dig a hole large enough to allow for the roots to be unrestricted. Remove plants from the water, prune any broken roots or branches and leave no more than four to six buds to a branch. In the bottom of the hole, make a cone-shaped mound of soil and place the plant inside. Fill the hole three-quarters full of soil and gently tamp. Next, fill the hole with water, when the water is gone fill with soil. Plant grafted rose with the bud union five to seven centimetres below the soil line. Mound loose soil 15 centimetres over each plant to protect it from cold and drying winds. Keep this mound moist and leave it in place until growth starts. Then, carefully remove the mound on a cool day she says.

Container roses can be planted throughout the growing season. Carefully remove the rose from the pot and place in a hole without disturbing the root ball. Fill the hole and tamp down, and then water.

"The rose should be planted so the soil level and the root ball is even with the soil surrounding the hole," she says. Container grown roses don't need to be mounded she adds.

Roses require at least six hours of direct sunlight a day. Some shade in the afternoon prevents the flowers from fading. Good air movement through the rose planting is necessary to aid disease

Cont'd on page 4

prevention. Roses don't compete with other plants so they should be planted away from other trees and shrubs she says. A well drained soil with a pH of between 5.5 and 6.5 is preferred. Adding organic matter in the form of peat moss or well rotted manure helps improve the plant's vigor.

"Adequate fertilizing and water will help increase flower production" she says. Regularly fertilize with a water soluble fertilizer such as 24-24-14, 15-30-15 or 28-14-14. Fertilize May 15 and between June 30 and July 31. Granular rose foods can be used instead of applying a fertilizer May 15, June 15 and July 15. "And don't apply fertilizers after August 1," she adds. Roses require a minimum of 2.5 centimetres of water a week. Apply the water directly to the soil surface rather than with overhead sprinklers to prevent foliage diseases. A 25 litre pail is equivalent to about 2.5 centimetres of water she adds.

For more information on buying and caring for rose plants, contact Shelley Barkley at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Some roses require Prairie-proofing

Just as with love and romance, some roses require a little extra tender loving care to survive in Alberta says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "Hybrid tea roses, floribunda, grandiflora, miniature roses and climbing tree roses won't survive an Alberta winter without protection," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Research Center in Brooks.

Hybrid tea roses are the most popular of these types notes Barkley. They produce a single large flower on a stem such as the roses you would get from a florist. Hybrid tea roses come in almost any color or color combination. Mature leaves are medium to dark green. Some may have new foliage that is dark red and matures to green. These roses are suitable for planting in a bed alone or in groupings such as in a formal garden.

Floribunda roses produce clusters of single or double flowers on each stem regularly during the growing season. They produce flowers starting in June and ending with a killing frost in the fall. These plants give an abundance of color and are superb in mass plantings, she notes.

Grandiflora roses are a cross of hybrid tea and floribunda plants. The flower stem is longer than with floribunda, but the flowers resemble hybrid tea.

Miniature roses work well as edging material in flower beds or borders. They grow to height of between 15 to 45 cm and produce tiny flowers. They resemble hybrid teas but are ever blooming. Most have little or no fragrance. While the most beautiful, climbing roses require the most care of all roses. "Most climbers blossom on two year old wood," says Barkley. Blaze is the exception as it blooms on the current season's growth. The cane of climbing roses need to be carefully laid down on the ground in the late fall and then covered she notes.

Tree roses are primarily hybrid teas, grandifloras or floribundas grafted on a long stem and planted in a container. These plants can't be left outside during the winter. They must be stored in a cold room at between 0 and 4$.

All of the tender roses require winterizing says Barkley. "Actively growing wood is more susceptible to winter damage so its best to discourage active growth during late summer."

Her advice is to discontinue fertilizing roses after the end of July. Roses cut in August should be cut with shorter stems so as not to stimulate new soft growth. Also reduce watering during September, but never let the plants dry out.

After several hard frosts, roses can be prepared for winter. The roots should be soaked to prevent them from drying out. Head canes back to 15 to 25 cm. Put insulation materials around the plant. Mouse bait put out at this time will also help to control destruction from these rodents. Cover plants with about 30 centimetres of insulating materials such as loose peat moss, dry leaves or garden soil. This can be removed in early May when danger of a severe frost is past.

Most of these roses will also require some kind of pruning says Barkley. Prune hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas when you plant them, and when the winter protection is removed, she says. Take all but three to five of the strongest canes, cutting these to four to six buds per cane. As well the flower stem and faded flowers are removed from the plant, cut just above the outward facing flower shoot. This is usually purplish-red in color. "Remember that it takes at least seven leaves to make enough food to produce a flower," she says. Root stalk suckers should be removed at ground level notes Barkley, suckers are easily recognized because of their seven leaflet leaves. Miniature roses need little pruning except for removing weak shoots and tip pruning," she says. For more information on growing roses, caring for them and winterizing tender roses, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Smells as sweet and survives Alberta winters

Shrub roses are ideal for gardeners who want the beauty and fragrance of roses but don't want the extra care required with hybrid tea roses says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Not only are these shrub roses able to survive our winters without extra protection, the variety of sizes and new cultivars make these plants very adaptable in many landscaping situations," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Center in Brooks.

Shrub roses vary in size from low growing to very tall. While many of the old standby cultivars bloom only once during the

Cont'd on page 5

spring or summer, new varieties can bloom continuously from late spring to first frost. "Some may bloom only on two year old wood and older," notes Barkley.

While able to survive the winter, shrub roses may require spring pruning to remove dead wood. Many have good autumn color and prominent hips, and a few even have red foliage throughout the growing season.

Canadian plant breeders have been busy developing new hardy roses she adds. The Explorer series was developed in Ontario using hardy parent stock to produce hardy offspring. Disease resistance was also bred into these plants. Roses in the Explorer series are named after the early Canadian explorers. Alexander Mackenzie, Champlain, Charles Albanel are all red roses. Pink Explorers include Jens Munk and William Baffin. Henry Hudson is a white cultivar in this series.

The Parkland series was developed by the Agriculture Canada research station in Morden, Manitoba. These roses have a native prairie rose as their parent. Adelaide Hoodless, Cuthbert Grant, Morden Fireglow and Morden Amorette are red Parkland roses. Morden Blush and Morden Centennial are pink roses in this series.

The old standby hardy shrub roses include Hansa, Harrison's Yellow, Betty Bland, Pink Grootendorst and Red Leafed Rose. "All of these hardy shrub roses will reward any gardener with color and fragrance with little effort," says Barkley.

"Shrub roses are pruned similar to any spring flowering shrub. Thinning out wood older than four years and heading back certain stems to keep the plant tidy is all that is necessary," says Barkley.

For more information on growing roses, contact Barkley at Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Lacombe 4-Her goes to U.K.

An 18-year-old 4-Her from Lacombe is one of four young Canadians currently in the United Kingdom on an exchange.

Christa Henderson left on her exchange trip in early June. Her first stop was Canada's national capital Ottawa. There she met with the three other young Canadians who will be travelling to the United Kingdom on the Shell 4-H United Kingdom exchange. The other Canadian delegates are from Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. While in Ottawa they toured Parliament Hill, the National Gallery, the Museum of Civilization and the Central Experimental Farm.

Henderson and the other Canadians will spend most of their summer with a host family. "I'm really excited because it's such a learning experience," says Henderson. She lists the thrills as going over the Atlantic, getting to know a different culture, seeing a different country and "living with people not just visiting".

Henderson, who is the youngest of the four Canadians, has just finished her first year of post-secondary education at Red Deer College. She is currently enroled in a two-year political science transfer program. Henderson lives on her family's farm just east of Lacombe. They have a purebred beef operation as well as a cattle, semen and insurance sales agri-business.

During her nine years in 4-H Henderson has completed horse, beef and craft projects. Her active 4-H and community involvement were both factors in her selection as the Alberta exchange delegate.

"Her commitment, contributions and achievements in 4-H and her community as well as her strong interest in agriculture were why she was elected to represent 4-H, Alberta and Canada in the Shell 4-H United Kingdom exchange," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

While the seven-week exchange ends in early August, Henderson will extend her stay in the United Kingdom. Her mother will join her to journey to Scotland.

Contact: Marguerite Stark 948-0510
Christa Henderson 782-3888

New faces on 4-H Foundation Board

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta has some new faces as well as a new chair and vice chair.

Angus Park of Trochu replaces Barry McDonald as chair of the foundation. Jerry Hall of Calgary takes over the responsibility of vice chair from Park. Continuing on the executive as treasurer will be Ken Newman, an accountant and mixed farmer from Calgary.

"I look forward to the challenge of chairing the foundation," said Park. He also praised McDonald for the excellent job he'd done over the last two years. "Working with a team approach should allow us to provide the best service possible for 4-H members, the 4-H council, the 4-H branch and 4-H clubs."

Those weren't the only changes made to the board of directors of the foundation. Long-time director Herman Grosfield of Brooks retired from the foundation. Grosfield was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame earlier this year. Other retirees include Georgina Taylor of Chauvin; George Lane of Lacombe; and, Tony Perlich of Lethbridge. All three were thanked for their tireless efforts and valuable contribution to the foundation throughout their tenure.

Four people will be joining the board. Dale Cole of Vegreville will start a three-year term. Cole is a retired dairy farmer with an impressive list of past service. This includes being the leader of a 4-H dairy club for 12 years, serving on the Edmonton Northlands board of directors for 11 years, past director and president of the Alberta Dairymen's Association and 35 years as the director of the Vegreville Agricultural Society.

Another new face is Gordon Sherwood of Winfield. Sherwood is a former County of Wetaskiwin councillor and is a rancher in the area. Once a 4-H member he has seen his three daughters also go through the program.

Cont'd on page 6

Though not a new face to the 4-H movement, Art Griffith will join the foundation for the first time this year. Griffith is from Balzac and recently finished a seven-year term with the sister agency to the foundation, the Alberta 4-H Council.

The final addition to the board is Les Lyster, assistant deputy minister, field services, Alberta Agriculture. Lyster replaces Irene Leavitt who retired earlier this year.

The 4-H Foundation of Alberta was set up in 1977 as a financial arm of the 4-H movement in Alberta. The foundation is responsible for development and operation of the Alberta 4-H Centre in Battle Lake. It also administers scholarships and accepts donations for various 4-H activities.

For more information on the foundation or any of its programs, contact Vicki Berger, secretary-manager of the foundation in Edmonton at 427-2541.

Contact: Vicki Berger
427-2541

Agri-News briefs

4-H scholarship deadline approaching

July 15 is the application deadline for 1993-94 academic year 4-H scholarships. Past and present 4-H members who plan to apply for scholarships must have their applications into the home economics and 4-H branch by this date. This year 87 4-H scholarships worth more $57,000 will be awarded. Criteria for this scholarship vary. Most are based on academic skills, community involvement and 4-H background. Some are non-academic and based on leadership, while others are based on region. Applications are available from regional 4-H offices, district home economists and the 4-H branch in Edmonton. For more information, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Food consumers not as green as they seem

Consumers' concern for the environment doesn't necessarily translate into purchases of environmentally friendly food products. That's one of the conclusions of a study conducted for Agriculture Canada under the federal Green Plan. The study noted part of the reason for the gap between consumer attitudes and environmentally sensitive food purchasing behavior, is the lack of consensus of what constitutes a "green product". Regional workshops of stakeholders begin this month to discuss the implications of this information for the food industry. For more information, contact Elizabeth Campbell or Vicki McTaggart with the food industry development division in Ottawa at (613) 995-9554.

Excellence awarded at 1993 Pork Congress

A top pork producer, herdsman of the year and pork industry leadership awards were given out at the recent 1993 Alberta pork congress. The Roeske family of Alcomdale and their Rose Briar Farm were honoured as the top pork producers for 1993. Murray, Millie and their sons Erik and Stuart have a unique 50 sow operation. They have been involved in swine production for 15 years. Ciaran Ormond is the 1993 herdsman of the year. Originally from Ireland, he came to Alberta in 1980. He's been involved with Bacon Acre/Ranchview Farms for more than 10 years. He is an active member of the Western Hog Grower Association and past director of the Pork Congress. He and his family reside in Bentley. Jack Perkins was recognized with the pork industry leadership award. He's been involved in the industry since 1945 when he took over the family farm in the Wainwright area. Perkins was a founding president of the Western Hog Growers Association. For more information, contact the Alberta Pork Congress at 340-5307.

Fill "'er up.... with willow"

Agriculture Canada is working with Energy, Mines and Resources and Forestry Canada to help farmers develop a new crop for some of their marginal lands—trees. Harvested every four to 10 years, hybrid willows and other fast growing trees could be sold to fuel ethanol plants with raw material. Farmers could plant these trees as a conventional crop or in a shelterbelt to provide soil erosion protection on crop lands. Shelterbelts can be selectively harvested for ethanol production. Ongoing research into ethanol from wood is expected to make the conversion process economically viable in the future. For more information, contact Mark Stumborg in Ottawa (613) 995-7084.

Lean lamb field day, lamb carcass competition and southern Alberta Sheep Breeders BBQ July 17

July 17 will be a busy day at the Agriculture Canada Lethbridge research station. The day includes a lean lamb field day and carcass display as well as Hays Pasture and a Southern Alberta Sheep Breeders barbecue in the evening. The field day allows evaluation of live market lambs and comparing results to carcasses and expert opinions. Ultrasound for predicting carcass quality in live lambs will be demonstrated. Other presentations include nutrition, genetics, and marketing for production of lean, desirable lambs. The top Alberta carcasses will be awarded prizes in the national lamb carcass competition. Both meals will feature lamb. There is no participant limit in the field day portion of the event, but a $10 ticket is required for lunch. Tickets for the barbecue are available at the door. For more information, contact Kim Stanford in Lethbridge by July 9th at 381-5150.

19TH annual Alberta ram test station sale July 3

The 19th annual Alberta ram test station sale will run July 3 at the Olds Cow Palace. Ram viewing begins at 10:30 a.m. and the sale begins at 1:00 p.m. Featured at the sale are the top performance tested ram lambs indexing above 100 (above average for their breed). A limited number of yearling wool breed lambs are also available. Among the breeds offered for sale are Dorset, Suffolk, Polypay, Hampshire and Rambouillet. If you want to buy a lamb but can't attend the sale, please contact Kim Stanford for information on written bids. You can reach her in Lethbridge at 381-5150 or FAX 382-4526.

UFA awarded Emerald

The United Farmers of Alberta was among the 10 Alberta companies and individuals recognized at the Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence's second annual Emerald awards. The UFA received the award in the environmental services category. Over 150 nominations were evaluated by the foundation's judging panel. "Not only do the projects come from every sector, they come from throughout the province, and illustrate the power of achievement that can be realized when business, grassroot organizations and government work together," says Don Hyndman, chair of the 1993 Emerald awards. For more information, contact Charlotte Moran, Alberta Environmental Protection, in Edmonton at 427-8636.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

June 28, 1993

CANADIANA

JUL 21 1993

Diagnose soil problems now

The best time to diagnose soil related crop problems is while the crop is growing says an Alberta Agriculture crop nutrition agronomist.

"It's easier and more reliable to locate and assess crop problems while the symptoms are visible, rather than waiting until after harvest," says Len Kryzanowski.

"It must be emphasized that not all poor crop conditions are caused by soil factors," he adds. "Many other environment, pest and management factors can cause poor crop growth, although some of these factors may be related to the soil conditions."

Deficiencies in one or more nutrient elements, soil pH, salinity and/or physical properties can contribute to abnormal crop growth. Kryzanowski says the most common nutrient deficiencies tend to be macronutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur. "Micronutrients such as zinc, magnesium, iron and boron range from seldom to rarely deficient," he notes.

"However," he adds, "in recent years, copper—another micronutrient—deficiencies, particularly in cereal crops, have been identified."

Soil pH related problems include crop tolerance to acidic or alkaline conditions and herbicide residues. Salinity problems may be due to total salt levels or the specific soluble salts present. Crop growth can also be influenced by the texture and organic matter of the soil and how it relates to moisture retention, seed bed conditions, crusting and peat soils.

"Diagnosing soil related crop problems starts with assessing the situation," he says. This preliminary assessment includes visual examination of crop symptoms and inspection of the fields. Look at the crop appearance including growth stage and height differences in the crop, color and markings of plants and other unusual appearances. The area's appearance, size, pattern, shapes, location of the field, topography, drainage and proximity to major land features such as sloughs should also be taken into account. The time symptoms are noted, such as early, late or continuing through the growing season, is also a factor.

"Producers should consider whether the symptoms have just appeared recently or whether they have been present for many years," he notes.

This assessment also calls for looking around the region. Are the symptoms common in the area or are they only found in one particular field? Another thing to look for is whether a range of crops is affected or whether the problem is specific to one crop.

"Once field inspection is complete and affected areas identified, then you can take representative soil and plant samples," he recommends. "This procedure is the most important phase of crop diagnosis. A preliminary assessment identifies the scope and nature of the problem and what sampling you should do. Collecting representative soil and plant samples ensures accurate laboratory analysis, proper interpretation and reliable recommendations."

Samples should be collected from affected and unaffected areas and if possible from marginally affected areas. Surface samples may be sufficient to identify some soil related problems, but in many cases some subsoil conditions may be influencing crop growth.

It's recommended samples be taken from zero to six inches, six to 12 inches and 12 to 24 inches from each area. Within each of these areas 10 to 15 individual soil cores should be taken at each

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Diagnose soil problems now 1

Ram test station sale July 3 2

Plant diagnoistic service in southern Alberta privatized 2

"Banking" on provincial exchanges 3

North and south represented at 4-H Operation Enterprise 3

Alberta Agriculture appointments 4

Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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separate depth. Then, form a composite sample for each depth by combining all sample cores for that depth. Samples should be air dried immediately before forwarding to a lab. A possible alternative is to refrigerate a sample until it can be delivered to the lab.

"Plant samples can be submitted with corresponding soil samples for visual examination and analyses. Visible plant symptoms may assist laboratory diagnosis, so samples sent for visual examinations should be two or three complete plants including top growth and roots from both affected and unaffected areas," he says. Separate plant samples for analyses should be taken from 20 to 30 representative plants from each of the affected and unaffected areas.

At the seedling stage all above-ground growth may be sampled. At later stages, selected plant portions are required depending on the crop type. As with soil samples, plant samples for analyses should be air dried. This prevents molding. Care should also be taken to prevent contaminating plants with soil as that can adversely affect laboratory analysis.

Soil and plant samples forwarded to labs need to be accompanied by an information sheet outlining the site inspection particulars and the requested analyses. "Our branch staff review each diagnostic request and confirm necessary lab analysis to help identify problems," he says.

The soil and crop management branch through the Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition laboratory provide diagnostic service to identify soil related problems and assist in planning corrective action. As well, a number of private laboratories provide similar services.

Once analyses have been completed and a likely cause of the problem has been identified, a recommendation is provided to help correct the situation. Recommendations may include fertilizer application for nutrient deficiencies, lime application for acidic soils, crop selection for salinity problems or other management changes.

For more information, contact the Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition lab at 427-6361, the soil and crop management branch at 427-7098 or your local district agriculturist.

Contact: Len Kryzanowski
427-6361

Ram test station sale July 3

Thirty-six rams from five different breeds will be on offer at the 19th annual Alberta Ram Test Station sale July 3 at the Cow Palace in Olds.

Dorset, Hampshire, Polypay, Rambouillet and Suffolk rams whose growth performance was average or above for their breed are eligible for the sale. They must also pass a rigorous cull for conformation. This ensures only the top one-third of rams entered at the test each year reach the sale.

"Ram growth rates were especially high in 1993," notes Kim Stanford, test station manager. "The average Suffolk on test this year grew at a rate of 0.555 kg per day. That's 1.22 pounds per day. This means that all Suffolks on offer at the sale will have grown at a minimum of 0.555 kg per day."

Also on offer are three Rambouillet rams from the wool breeds test. These rams are ranked by wool quality which is determined by greasy fleece weight, clean yield and micron measured fineness.

Sale rams will be available for viewing at the Olds Cow Palace starting at 10 a.m. on July 3. The sale is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Contact: Kim Stanford
381-5150

Plant diagnostic service in southern Alberta privatized

After 20 years, the southern Alberta Regional Crops Laboratory will close on July 16 and no longer provide plant diagnostic services.

The lab was based at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"Services that were provided by the Alberta government lab will still be available in the region through a private company," says Tom Krahn, director of the center.

The company is Brooks Diagnostics Ltd. The company, also based in Brooks, specializes in plant disease diagnostics.

Krahn adds the center's staff will continue to provide agricultural producers with crop management, and production and protection advice without charge. The center will also continue its role in providing horticultural information to the general public. However, diagnostic specimens will be referred to Brooks Diagnostics. This includes weed, insect and disease diagnosis.

Brooks Diagnostics also contracts with Agriculture Canada to provide potato disease diagnosis for their seed certification program and provides on-site consultation if required. Detailed fee schedules and directions about sample submission are available directly from the company.

"Privatization of plant diagnostic services in southern Alberta will provide an opportunity for the center's staff to work co-operatively with Brooks Diagnostics, to share expertise and to provide the public with state-of-the-art equipment and technology for plant diagnostics," says Krahn.

For more information, contact Krahn in Brooks at 362-3391 or Barbara Penner, president of Brooks Diagnostics, at 362-5555.

Contact: Tom Krahn Barbara Penner
362-3391 362-5555

"Banking" on provincial exchanges

Five Alberta 4-Hers will get to know another part of the country, while four of their peers will get to know Alberta better this summer.

The nine are part of an annual national exchange program sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada. "This exchange gives young adults from across Canada a chance to experience another province's lifestyle," says Marguerite Stark, provincial camping and exchange specialist.

Two of the delegates will journey to Alberta's closest neighbors. Andrea Deaville of Paradise Valley goes west to British Columbia and Kim Hadwin of Consort goes east to Saskatchewan. The other young Albertans will travel much farther east. Kari Harbin of Rivercourse will voyage to Quebec, Marcie Mandziuk of Thorhild travels to Nova Scotia and Wendy Williams of Gibbons has a Newfoundland destination. Williams is the 1993 Premier's Award winner as the province's top 4-H member.

All will leave for their host province on July 6 following a send-off banquet in Calgary on July 5. Each will stay with two host families for the remainder of their two week trip. They return to Alberta on July 19.

The five Alberta delegates were chosen to participate in the exchange at the annual provincial selections program earlier this spring. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

The day the Albertans leave home, four out-of-province 4-H members arrive in this province. They start their Alberta experience with a four-day tour of Calgary and Banff and surrounding areas. They will attend the opening day festivities at the Calgary Stampede and also be officially welcomed at a barbecue in Balzac at the home of a 4-H Foundation of Alberta director.

On July 10, they will meet with their host families. "All of the host families are involved with 4-H and are enthusiastic about showing the Alberta lifestyle to other Canadians," says Stark.

Kathy De Roos of Unity, Saskatchewan will stay with the Sherry and Garry Baier family of Three Hills. Neil and Lilyon Lunty of Forestburg are hosting Tina Philpott from Tickle Cove, Newfoundland. British Columbia delegate Stephanie Michaluk of Surrey will spend her exchange with Ken and Gladys Wachowich and family of Redwater. Morristown, Nova Scotia's Anne-Marie MacKenzie will stay with Susan Kerr and family of Sherwood Park.

The four delegates will leave Alberta on July 19 to return to their homes.

Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

North and south represented at 4-H Operation Enterprise

Two Alberta 4-H delegates will be heading to Canada's border city for Operation Enterprise from June 30 to July 9.

Sandra Hogg from Wembley and Jennifer Vos from Burdett were chosen to attend Operation Enterprise at the 1993 provincial selections 4-H program. This is the first year Operation Enterprise will be held in Lloydminster. In previous years, it has been held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Operation Enterprise is an extensive business management seminar. The program aims to improve delegates' managing and leadership skills, help delegates with career decisions and set personal goals. Top business executives hold small group discussions, workshops and one-to-one communication with the delegates.

Both Hogg and Vos are nine-year 4-H members. Last year Hogg attended Grande Prairie Regional College studying business administration.

While in 4-H she completed horsemanship, junior leader, self-determined and senior opportunities projects.

Vos graduates this spring from Senator Gershaw High School in Medicine Hat. She plans to attend the University of Lethbridge in the fall and take a Bachelor of Education. Her 4-H involvement has been with steer projects.

"Both of these delegates have a keen interest in business and management and should benefit greatly from the Operation Enterprise program," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Alberta 4-H delegate participation at the event is sponsored by the Nelson Lumber Company and AEC Pipelines.

Exchange and tour participants are chosen at the annual provincial 4-H selections program. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New assistant deputy minister planning and development

Ray Bassett is Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's new assistant deputy minister of planning and development.

Bassett comes to the department from Alberta Transportation and Utilities where he had served as executive director of policy development since 1988. "Ray has had extensive contact with Alberta Agriculture having worked closely with this department and its clients on the Western Grain Transportation Act, branch line abandonment issues and activities related to the Prince Rupert grain terminal," says C.D. (Doug) Radke, deputy minister. "He has a good understanding of the economics of the agriculture and food industry, and a good appreciation for the changes facing the industry in the next few years."

Bassett's previous experience include various capacities with the transportation services branch in the Department of Economic Development and Trade and later the Department of Transportation and Utilities between 1976 and 1988. From 1974 to 1976, Bassett was a transportation economist with the Canadian Transport Commission in Ottawa. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of British Columbia and a MBA from the University of Alberta.

"I look forward to meeting the challenges in the agriculture and food industry. I also look forward to getting to know the department and its staff," says Bassett. He can be reached in Edmonton at 427-1957.

New dairy management specialist named

Brian Cameron is the new dairy management specialist for the province. He joins Rick Corbett, dairy nutritionist, and Dr. Gerald Ollis, dairy cattle veterinarian, to form a team of dairy industry specialists working out of Edmonton for Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Cameron joined the department 11 years ago working initially in dairy financial consulting and milk quality. Then, he spent six years as district agriculturist in Ponoka. During that time he worked on a masters degree in dairy cattle reproduction from the University of Alberta. Most recently he held a staff coaching position in Red Deer.

Cameron says he "plans to work with dairy agribusinesses, producer groups, department staff and producers to help keep the Alberta dairy industry strong and competitive." Cameron can be reached in Edmonton at 427-8906.

Agri-News briefs

Breeders' Association calls for shepherds recognition nominations

The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association is inviting the industry to submit names of outstanding individuals for formal recognition. Nominations should also include information on how the person has contributed to the success of the sheep industry. The association will present Alberta Shepherds Recognition awards to deserving individuals on an annual or bi-annual basis. Three such awards were presented at the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission Forum last November in Red Deer. One of the recipients was John Wills, originally from northern England. He was a long time shepherd at Dalbo. Nomination forms and other information are available from the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association, attention Gail Dietz, #212, 6715-8th Street N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 7H7, call 295-2185 or FAX 275-8009.

Ducks Unlimited Canada holds 1993 convention in Edmonton July 25-28

Ducks Unlimited Canada will hold its 1993 convention in Edmonton July 25 through 28. Among the conference activities will be habitat tours. Convention delegates will get a first-hand look at one of Ducks Unlimited's most productive wildlife habitatsin the area. They will tour through pothole country around Big Hay Lake southeast of Edmonton. Each morning will feature business sessions. For more information, contact Cheryl Johnson in Stonewall, Manitoba at (204)467-3284 or FAX (204)467-9028.

New publication looks at weed control of shelterbelts

A new Alberta Agriculture factsheet looks at chemical weed control of Alberta shelterbelts. The five-page factsheet, "Chemical Weed Control for Alberta Shelterbelts" (Agdex 277/645-1) discusses herbicide selectivity, soil-applied herbicides, foliar-applied herbicides, site preparation for new shelterbelts and herbicide application equipment. There is also a table of herbicides recommended for use in shelterbelts. This publication is available by writing the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6, or by contacting your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

New variety of native grass released

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville has released a new variety of native grass. AEC Highlander can be used to revitalize parts of Alberta's natural landscapes. It's the first variety of native grass adapted for seeding reclamation sites and higher elevations. This slender wheatgrass variety was especially developed for the mountains and foothills of Alberta. Until Highlanders' release, there wasn't a native grass variety commercially available to fulfil the demand for reclamation sites from coal mining, oil and gas destruction, forestry, recreation, rangeland rehabilitation, and railway and road construction. It's expected there will be heavy demand for this variety based on the number of enquiries already received by the centre. Limited quantities of the seed will be available by the fall of 1993 and in commercial quantities by 1994. AEC Highlander was successfully tested for five years at plains and mountain sites including the Columbia Icefields, Sunshine Village and Mountain Park. This variety's primary advantage is its ability to grow rapidly and produce mature seeds in short growing seasons. It will allow the invasion of reclaimed sites by adjacent native plants eventually providing cover similar to the surrounding undisturbed areas. For more information, contact Dr. Barb Darroch in Vegreville at 632-8209 or FAX 632-8379.

Sustainable Agricultural Association plans two July farm tours

The Sustainable Agriculture Association has planned two farm tours during the month of July. The first is July 17 at Dwayne Smith's farm northeast of Vulcan. The tour starts at 1:30 p.m. Smith has a 2,000 acre dryland grain farm. The tour is designed for other farmers interested in organic and low-input farming. Producers will be able to compare notes and learn how Smith operates his farm with machinery such as rodweeder and disks, a six-year crop rotation and other techniques to make his land productive while still organic. For more information, contact Dwayne at 485-6461 or Don at 245-3441. The second tour is July 25 near Okotoks. The tour is of Eskild Korsholm's vegetable farm. This tour is aimed at non-producers who are interested in knowing more about organic vegetable production. It is an afternoon tour staring at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Eskild at 938-3430 or Don at 245-3441.

American entrepreneur shares vision for success in the '90's

A new addition to the Alberta Agricultural central film library shares the insight and inspiration of Ross Perot, who founded Electronic Data Systems Corporation. Perot, in a revealing interview, presents a rare inside look at the "inner workings" of one of the most dramatic start-ups in business. He also shares his views on how to run a successful enterprize in the 1990's, be it a small business or large corporation. The video includes his advice on competitiveness, customer service and relationship with government. The 90-minute video is available for loan through the central film library in Edmonton. For loan information, write Broadcast Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUL 21 1993

July 5, 1993

Sun sense for farmers

Farmers have no choice but to work outside during the peak daylight hours—between noon and 4 p.m.—when the sun can be at its most dangerous. However, you can be outside and still be safe.

Covering up, whether with sunscreen or clothing, is how to protect yourself says an Alberta Health consultant. People who must be outside during the peak hours should cover themselves with hats, long sleeves and pants. They should also use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or more on all body parts exposed to the sun. A sunscreen with a 15 or higher SPF is necessary for both children and adults with fair skins.

The clothing, says Sandi Darrell of the health promotion branch, includes long sleeves and long pants. Hats should offer front and back protection from the sun she adds. This includes the back of the neck and also the top of the ears, two spots often sunburned when wearing a traditional baseball style cap.

Because their work takes them outside during the day when the sun's ultraviolet rays are strongest, farmers need to take care to prevent sun damage. While dermatologists and cancer experts say the best way to protect your skin from the sun is to stay out of the sun during the peak hours, farmers don't have that option when they have field work to do.

As people who spend a lot of time outdoors, farmers fit into at least one of the major skin cancer risk categories. Sun induced damage to the skin adds up year after year. Research shows the more skin is exposed to the sun, the more likely a person will be to develop skin cancer. Other risk factors are fair skin that burns easily and rarely tans; a personal family history of skin cancer; a high number of large moles or moles of unusual color; and, several blistered sunburns through childhood or teenage years.

Sunscreen should be applied at least one half hour before going outside. It should be re-applied about every three hours, she notes, when working outside. The sun gives off three types of ultraviolet radiation, UV-A, UV-B and UV-C. During the day, ultraviolet radiation is the most intense at solar noon. This is between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. (daylight savings time).

The weakest form, UV-A, causes skin aging, wrinkles and cataracts. UV-C at the other end of the spectrum is the most damaging. Luckily the earth's upper atmosphere acts as a giant filter so UV-C never reaches the earth's surface.

UV-B is the one we need to be concerned about since most of it is absorbed by ozone. Over exposure to UV-B causes skin to tan or burn and eventually can cause skin cancer. It also reduces plant growth and affects the health of both wild and domestic animals. In addition, UV-B deteriorates outdoor plastics and paint.

For more information about ultraviolet radiation and ozone, contact Karen McDonald or Tom Medlicott with Environment Canada in Edmonton at 495-3143. You can also contact Alberta Health's health promotion branch in Edmonton at 427-5367. The Alberta Cancer Board and the Canadian Cancer Society also both have pamphlets and other

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Sun sense for farmers 1

Summer farm program 541 strong 2

Direct seeding acres keep growing in Peace 2

Western Ethanol Workshop coming to Killam 3

Home study survey shows successes, next steps 3

How to recognize rose insect and disease pests 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
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information related to sun sense. For more information on sun sense, you can also contact your local Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

Contact: *Sandi Darrell*
427-5367

Summer farm program 541 strong

Alberta farmers have hired 541 young people to work for them this summer through the Summer Farm Employment Program (SFEP).

The program is funded by Career Development and Employment and administered by Alberta Agriculture. It provides financial assistance to farmers to create jobs for youths. This year's total number of jobs is up slightly from 1992's 536.

"The opportunity for young people to develop practical skills and on-the-job training are vast. Historically, the majority of young people are placed on mixed farming operations," says Alberta Agriculture's Janette McDonald Adam. "The list of job duties includes fence repair, handling livestock, painting, equipment operation, milking cows, machinery repair and maintenance, and, of course, everyone's favorite—picking rocks."

Adam notes in recent years, farm safety has become a essential part of SFEP. "Last year there were almost no injuries among the students who attended the safety seminars," she says.

Safety seminars will be held across the province again in 1993 during the month of July. The dates and locations are as follows: July 5, Edmonton and Red Deer; July 6, Coronation and Barrhead; July 7, Athabasca and Airdrie; July 8, Sedgewick and Hanna; July 9, Sedgewick and Airdrie; July 12, Grande Prairie and Brooks; July 13, Peace River and Medicine Hat; July 14, Lac La Biche and Lethbridge; July 15, Vermilion and Red Deer; July 16, Edmonton.

Contact: *Janette McDonald Adam*
422-5672

Direct seeding acres keep growing in the Peace

Go back five years and the direct seeded acreage in the Peace region was about 3,500 acres. In 1993, an estimated 100,000 acres were seeded without prior tillage.

"The acreages have even grown over 1992," says John Zylstra, regional soil conservation co-ordinator. "One number has stayed fairly stable, the number of acres done as demonstrations. Last year the total was 9,000 acres. This year the total is 10,000.

"The bigger leap was in what farmers did for themselves with their own or leased equipment. In 1992 in this region about 28,000 acres were zero-till or direct seeded. This year, the total is at least 90,000 acres."

Direct seeding means seeding crops directly into the stubble of the previous crop without any prior tillage either in the spring or during the previous fall. All fertilizer and seed is applied at the same time in one pass. Sometimes the definition is broadened to include fertilizing before seeding, provided it's banded with narrow knife openers. Its purpose is to conserve soil residues to prevent wind and water erosion, to save moisture with the stubble acting as a snowtrap and to protect soil moisture from evaporation.

"Although the number of direct seeded crop acres gives an indication of changed practices, it's not the only practice or in every case the most predominate change," notes Zylstra. The number of minimum or reduced till acres is much larger he adds.

"It's difficult to quantify what the changed practices have meant in terms of soil conservation because we don't have a good, objective baseline of residue levels in this region. Various surveys though, have shown a reduction in tillage operations from four or five, to two or three. Visual observation also indicates an increase in the number of field with more residue on the surface after seeding compared to 'a few years ago'," he says.

Just across the provincial border in the B.C. Peace region, the number of zero-till acres has also increased he notes, from 19,000 acres in 1992 to an estimated 35,000 to 45,000 this year.

Zylstra says the region's farmers and farm groups are continuing to run field demonstrations of soil and water conservation practices. One of this summer's demonstrations looks at how five different drills seed crop on the same field.

"Fertilizer and seeding rates also affect crop growth, but this particular demonstration is designed to look at equipment's ability to handle crop residue, to obtain uniform emergence and to leave a smooth or rougher surface. Those observations will be the real attraction during tours in the summer," says Zylstra.

One of the many equipment demonstrations will be held on July 23. Ten direct seeding drills and eight other pieces of field equipment will be demonstrated at a site two kilometres south of Manning starting at 10 a.m. and running to 5 p.m.

"The machinery will be operated in a stubble field and farmers from across the region will be coming to observe and gain new knowledge at this working demonstration sponsored by the Improvement District #22 Applied Research Association," notes Zylstra.

Cont'd on page 3

Producer groups and agricultural service boards do most of the demonstrations. One source of support for the on-going demonstrations is the Canada/Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement.

Contact: John Zylstra
835-2291

Western Ethanol Workshop coming to Killam

On August 10 the east central Alberta community of Killam will host a one-day Western Ethanol Workshop designed to bring participants leading edge information on the renewable fuel.

Killam was chosen to host the workshop by the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association. The western conference is one of four conferences to be held this year. The last was in Toronto in April.

Participants are expected from across Western Canada says Trevor Yurchak, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Sedgewick. Yurchak is involved in local arrangements for the conference as well as registration.

"This conference will have cutting edge information on the industry. We're even expecting updates from what was presented in Toronto in the spring," he says.

While the association was considering one of Alberta's major cities for the conference, the Killam and District Business Development Association made a pitch for the conference. The economic development group has been working on an ethanol/feedlot project since 1988.

"The conference will be an opportunity for Killam to showcase its project and for all ethanol interests to gather to discuss our developing industry," says Jim Johnson, president of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

"We are looking forward to hosting the participants of this relatively new energy sector in Canada. Ethanol, as a renewable fuel, can play a significant role in domestic energy policy, environmental initiatives, agricultural markets and rural development," says Darrell Holmstrom, director of the Killam and District Business Development Association.

Yurchak notes that the conference is particularly of interest for its economic details. "We know that production is feasible, but there are still some questions about the economics of ethanol production."

Registration for the one-day event is $50 and includes lunch. Cheques made payable to the Killam Ethanol Workshop can be mailed to Trevor Yurchak, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Box 270, Sedgewick, Alberta, T0B 4C0. For more information, call him at 384-3737 or FAX 384-2717.

Yurchak says organizers are expecting at least 200 participants, but can handle up to 400 people.

Fuel ethanol is a high octane, water free alcohol produced by fermented sugar or converted starch. It's used as a raw material to produce high octane fuel ether additives and as blending ingredient in gasoline. In Canada, the blend is at five to 10 per cent concentrations commonly termed E5 or E10.

Four plants are currently in operation in Western Canada and Ontario. There are another fifty plus proposals on the drawing board notes Johnson. "The impact of the U.S. Clean Air Act and the tax treatment of ethanol by the federal and some provincial governments has led to a flurry of activity. It's one of the bright spots in agriculture with over 330 retail outlets selling ethanol-blended fuel across Canada."

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Government of Alberta, the County of Flagstaff and Agriculture Canada with support from other provincial governments and members of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

Contact: Trevor Yurchak 384-3737
Darrell Holmstrom 385-3574

Terry Boland
(519)767-0431

Home study survey shows successes, next steps

Farmers who take Alberta Agriculture home study courses are younger, better educated, have been farming for fewer years, have larger farms and higher gross sales than the average provincial farm population.

That profile is from an evaluation survey of the department's home study program conducted during 1992. Approximately 2,500 people take at least one of the program's 15 courses every year.

"Along with the profile we've learned people are basically satisfied with the home study program," says co-ordinator Faye Douglas Phillips.

"Even more exciting, is that over 60 per cent of the participants made changes to their farming practices after taking a course," she adds.

The survey also indicates ways the program can be improved and provides suggestions for new courses. Crop management and financial and farm management are topics of the most interest. Many who responded also said videos would be a useful addition to course material.

Some current home study topics include animal health, cattle nutrition, beef herd management, pork production, crop protection, understanding profit, farm estate planning and home-based business.

The home study program was started almost 20 years ago in 1974. It is a self-directed distance education program. At the start, courses were basically just printed material. Now, a number of software programs are also available.

Cont'd on page 4

"The appeal of home study is that participants can work at home at their own pace and keep the course binder as a reference," notes Douglas Phillips.

All courses are developed in co-operation with department specialists. "The information is essentially the same advice farmers would receive if they could sit down for a full week or more with a department expert and talk about nothing except one area," she notes.

Since this type of exchange isn't practical, home study courses present subject material in an organized, easy-to-follow, interactive format a farmer and farm family can study at home.

"The expert advice is still available from department specialists, to explain details and answer questions," adds Douglas Phillips, "But, the core material is contained in the home study package."

For more information on the home study program or survey results, contact Douglas Phillips in Edmonton at 427-2404.

Contact: Faye Douglas Phillips
427-2404

How to recognize rose insect and disease pests

A rose in bloom is beautiful, but a rose ruined and plagued by pests is disheartening says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"After spending the time and care needed for growing roses, the last thing you want is for insects and diseases to spoil your hard work," says Shelly Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"When you see signs of pest damage, the most important part of control is being able to recognize the pest—insect or disease—you're dealing with," she adds.

Common insect pests on roses include aphids, rose slugs, spider mites, thrips and rose weevils. Common rose diseases include blackspot, powdery mildew and rust.

Aphids are generally found on new growth and leaf undersides. Aphid feeding causes a yellowing, curling or puckering of leaves. Aphids themselves come in a variety of shapes and sizes she notes. "They can be winged or wingless, soft bodied and pear shaped, and in a variety of colors from green to black."

Spider mites also cause foliage to look yellow. Leaves will be a mottled yellow and the foliage can also drop prematurely. Mite infestations are often recognized by the webbing on leaf undersides. Mites are small and very hard to see.

"Rose weevils are particularly devastating in a rose garden as they feed on unopened flower buds," says Barkley. This causes the bud to drop, or it might not bloom. The adult weevil has a black head, long snout and a red body.

Gall wasps infest crowns and stems of roses. Barkley recommends pruning off galls when they are noticed.

The rose slug resembles the pear slug in both appearance and feeding habits. The greenish-yellow insect skeletonizes the leaves of the plant and turns them brown.

On the disease side, blackspot is a serious and widespread fungal disease. "It can be seen when circular black spots appear on the upper surface of the leaves with a yellow fringed margin," she says. Leaves soon yellow and fall off. Severely infected plants may loose their leaves two or three times during a growing season. This severely weakens the plant.

The disease is spread during the growing season by water splashed between plants. "The other bad news is that blackspot can overwinter on dead leaves and on rose canes," she adds.

Powdery mildew is also very common and can also overwinter on infected plant material. The disease can be recognized as leaves and young growth are covered with a white powdery fungal growth. Young leaves curl and expose the lower leaf surface. In severe cases, the growing tip may be killed, infected buds don't open and leaves drop prematurely. The disease is spread by spores.

As with powdery mildew, rust fungi spores are produced during the growing season and can survive the winter on infected plant debris and canes. Rust disease causes reddish dusty masses of spores to appear on diseased plant tissue.

"Usually rust infection causes yellow to red circular spots on the lower leaves of the rose plant. In the early stages, these spots may be too small to notice," says Barkley. "Often the first indication of the disease is a general unhealthy appearance of the plant plus lower leaf loss. Infected leaves can become twisted and dry before falling off the plant."

Barkley adds all the diseases can be controlled by removing all remaining foliage during the dormant season, then pruning out the infected canes. During the growing season she recommends picking off infected leaves as they are noticed.

"Where you plant and how you care for your roses can also make a difference," she says. "Plant disease-free roses in areas with good air circulation. Water them early in the day so the foliage can dry before night, or better yet avoid use of overhead sprinklers on roses."

For more information, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Tractors and traction clinic in Lacombe

A two-day, hands-on, tractors and traction clinic is being offered in Lacombe on July 14 and 15. The clinic will help agricultural producers save fuel, understand agriculture tractor preventative maintenance and generally lower the operating costs of their machines. During the first day, the clinic will alternate between classroom presentations involving several hundred pieces of engine related equipment, live demonstrations and troubleshooting using a trailer-mounted 150 horsepower diesel engine and dynamometer. Engine related concepts and systems will be discussed from the standpoint of what can be done on the farm by owner operators. The second morning includes a field demonstration of traction concepts. Participants will receive handouts covering all the topics. Instructors are from the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge and Northern Montana College in Havre, Montana. To register or for more information, call the Red Deer regional agriculture office at 340-5323 or the Alberta Agriculture Lacombe district office at 782-3301 or 340-7161.

1993 Wetaskiwin county tour July 28

The County of Wetaskiwin is holding a tour on July 28. Activities start with an "Alberta Made" pancake breakfast at the county's shop at 7:30 a.m. Tours of the county's demonstration garden will follow at 9 a.m. Demonstrations at the Reynolds Alberta Museum start at 9:30 a.m. Buses leave for tours of barley plots, leafy spurge and insect demonstrations at 10 a.m. Pre-registration by July 21 is required for the bus portion of the tour. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Wetaskiwin county office at 352-3321.

Cattlemen'93 August 12-13 In Calgary

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association will hold its annual conference August 12 and 13 in Calgary. Titled "building partnerships", the conference agenda will focus on partnerships that have strengthened the association and industry. Among the speakers are federal Agriculture Minister Charlie Mayer, Paul Robertson, a CTV vice-president, on the Olympic partnership, and Dan Koon, president-elect of the U.S. National Cattlemen's Association. Other topics include how the North American Free Trade Agreement may change the North American cattle industry; a panel presentation on product development; workshops on foreign trade and environment issues; and, a Canfax market outlook. During the conference the association's information arm, the Beef Information Centre, will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Special events include a luncheon speaker discussing the human side of farming and banquet speaker, David Broadfoot, a well-known comedian and one-time staple of the Royal Canadian Air Farce. For more information, write Cattlemen'93 at Box 4520, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, T2T 5N3, FAX 244-2340, or call Gina Grosenick at 244-4487.

National youth Charolais show planned

The Canadian Charolais Association and the Alberta Charolais Association have joined efforts to host a national youth show August 14 and 15 in Camrose. It will be the first national Charolais youth gathering since August 1990. The show is expected to attract about 100 young Charolais breeding enthusiasts. Although the schedule of events hasn't been finalized, the activities will likely include showmanship classes, public speaking, team grooming and judging classes. A nominal registration fee will be charged to participants. The show is open to peewee (under 12 years of age), intermediate (13 to 15 years of age) and senior (16 years of age and older) participants. Prize monies will be awarded in all competitions. In addition, $1,000 in advanced education scholarship money will be paid out. "This is a great opportunity for youth to meet other youth, exchange ideas and learn about the business," says Ken Aylesworth, the national association's general manager. "Functions such as this are a great way to prepare the youth of today to meet the challenges of tomorrow." For more information, contact the Canadian Charolais Association office in Calgary at 250-9242.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

July 12, 1993

CANADIANA

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Paszkowski Alberta's new agriculture minister

Alberta's new Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister is a 59-year-old farmer from Sexsmith.

Walter Paszkowski was named minister following the June 15 provincial election in Alberta and was sworn-in late last month. He succeeds Ernie Isley, agriculture minister since 1989 and longtime Bonnyville MLA.

Paszkowski, MLA for the now Grande Prairie-Smoky constituency, was first elected to Alberta's Legislature in March 1989. He is the second agriculture minister from that area in recent years. Marv Moore, who retired before the 1989 general election, was the Smoky River MLA and served as agriculture minister between 1975 and 1979.

The new minister says he has a close feeling for agriculture from a lifelong link and is looking forward to his new duties. "Quite frankly, I'm quite excited about the opportunity this is going to present working with the agricultural community," he says.

Paszkowski owned and operated a 1,500 acre pedigree seed farm and retail seed outlet. His son still operates the farm. He was actively involved with his community as well as several agricultural groups including a number of canola organizations, the Canadian Seed Growers Association, SeCan and Unifarm. He was recognized with an outstanding achievement award from the Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association and an achievement award from the Canola Council of Canada as founder of the Grow with Canola program. He also was a member of several Canadian market development missions to Europe and the Pacific Rim between 1978 and 1985.

As well, Paszkowski worked for Agriculture Canada for a dozen years and spent two years with the Northern Alberta Rapeseed Processors Co-operative.

During his first term as an MLA, he chaired a beekeeping industry advisory committee and the Standing Policy Committee on Financial Planning. Paszkowski was also vice-chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission.

Little Bow MLA Barry McFarland will chair the Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Paszkowski is the vice-chair.

Former committee chair, Butch Fisher, Wainwright MLA, is now a member of the Agenda and Priorities Committee.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben*	*Brian Hlus*
	427-2137	*427-2137*

Province blessed with June rain

Early June precipitation made farmers in southern Alberta happy, while farmers in central and Peace regions had to wait for much needed rain until mid to late June says an Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist.

"After a dry spring across the province, above normal June rains improved surface soil moisture conditions and provided good growing conditions," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Paszkowski Alberta's new agriculture minister 1

Province blessed with June rain 1

Some positive news in hog market 2

Strength still in cattle markets 2

Canola demand looks positive 3

Oat outlook strong 3

Barley market changing 3

Teachers learn agriculture at summer education institute 4

Propane used in farm vehicles eligible for tax rebate 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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and development branch. "Several good June showers helped provide some parts of the south with a third to half of their normal growing season precipitation totals."

These conditions were very similar to last year for southern Alberta farmers, however this year the rains started a week earlier he adds.

Farmers in central and Peace regions had to wait a little longer for rain. The much need moisture, from 25 to 150 mm, arrived in the third week of June. Additional amounts followed during the last week of the month.

In agricultural areas of the province June precipitation varied from about 55 mm in Edson, 64 per cent of normal, to about 145 mm at Pincher Creek, almost double June's normal total.

"Most of southern Alberta and the Peace region reported between 75 and 150 mm of precipitation, ranging from above normal to double the normal for June," Dzikowski notes.

Central regions reported 50 to 125 mm, about half the normal to one and half times the normal for June.

June's average temperatures around the province were on the cool side. Many locations reported values from one-half to two degrees below normal.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
422-4385

Some positive news in hog market

With a lost decision in the ongoing hog countervail saga and the prospective of falling prices ahead, pork producers can bask in some good news says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Preliminary trade data for the first five months of 1993 show a 15 per cent increase in fresh, frozen and processed pork exports to the U.S. compared to last year," says Ron Gietz.

"This increase more than makes up for reduced exports to Japan and other nations in 1993. Total exports are up six per cent from 1992," he adds.

Another positive, although perhaps short lived, Canadian markets were able to post higher prices during June. "U.S. slaughter markets didn't rally, but the lower exchange rate kept our prices higher," he notes.

Additional optimism comes from the surprising June 1 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hog Inventory Report. It suggested the current U.S. herd expansion may be drawing to a close. Total hog inventories in the U.S. were up only one per cent compared to June 1, 1992, and breeding stock inventories were actually down two per cent.

Despite the positive inventory report, Gietz foresees average Alberta producer payment prices dropping through the late summer and fall months with significant increases in U.S. pork production. He predicts August prices at $1.45 per kilogram (dressed) falling to $1.40 in September and down to $1.25 by November.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

Strength still in cattle markets

Feeder cattle prices will be strong at least through late summer and the exchange rate is helping slaughter cattle prices says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Local feeder cattle markets continued to show seasonally low market volumes at exceptional prices through the end of June," says Ron Gietz. "Pasture condition was a concern in some districts. It didn't trigger a surge in marketings and general rains have helped range conditions."

Gietz says he expects feeder prices to hold strong at least until marketings increase in late summer. "Some price weakening is expected then and in early fall based on predicted lower slaughter cattle prices by that time. Calf prices, in particular, are likely to decline from current levels."

On the slaughter cattle side, the persistent weakness of the Canadian dollar and low slaughter weights in the U.S. have been good news for prices. "The bad news is an expected large volume of marketings in the third quarter and the potential for slaughter weights to rise quickly," says Gietz.

He forecasts Alberta direct steer sale prices to fall to $83/cwt. through August and September. The forecasts are based on the U.S. market bottoming out in the mid to low $70 range. Gietz does foresee a gradual recovery in the fourth quarter, and expects prices to rise to $86/cwt. by December.

"Given the prospect of stable to lower prices, the best and simplest strategy for cattle producers is to market their cattle as they are ready," he says. "For those who missed out on the mid-June futures rally, attractive forward pricing opportunities this summer could be few and far between."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

Canola demand looks positive

Domestic crush and export demand for canola heading into the next crop year looks very positive says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Current crush levels indicate Canadian processors will process about 1.85 million tonnes in 1992-93," says Larry Ruud. For 1993-94, a domestic crush of 2 million tonnes is very possible given some capacity expansion and the good demand for canola products."

On the export front, Japan should return as a strong buyer next year he adds, after having to purchase some canola other places after the drought and snow damaged crop of last year. Japan bought from Europe, China and Australia notes Ruud. "However, European rapeseed production is forecast to drop four per cent this year further tightening their domestic supplies."

As well, the Mexican market looks promising. "Increased per capita consumption and reduced Polish supplies could mean Canadian sales of 150,000 to 200,000 tonnes into Mexico next year," he says.

The current canola market itself has been as volatile as the weather. "As with the feed market, canola futures have been holding a weather premium on prices," says Ruud. Dry weather across the Prairies during May and early June and cool weather in Manitoba led to concerns about potential yield loss and late crop maturity.

The U.S. soybean market has also been buoyed by weather concerns. Ten to 15 per cent of the soybean crop might not be planted or have to be reseeded because of excess moisture.

Markets could move down with moisture across the Prairies and improved conditions in the U.S. resulting in fall canola futures at $290 per tonne, or just below. While Ruud isn't predicting much lower prices, he says basis levels could widen. "With the potential for record production, a lot of canola will be available in the fall and basis levels could be pressured."

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Oat outlook strong

Strong current demand and a smaller 1993 U.S. oat crop are both good news items for Alberta oat producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Local cash prices for number one and two grade oats have held strong near $1.75 per bushel notes Larry Ruud. "Local and U.S. demand has been steady with our export pace continuing to be up 138 per cent over last year."

The U.S. is the main export market for Canadian oats. "The lack of available supplies from Finland and Sweden continues to help maintain our strong presence in the U.S. market," he adds.

With the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasting a 17 per cent drop in U.S. oat production this year, Canadian oat producers will continue to sell into that export market.

"Their import requirements will likely rise by as much as 200,000 tonnes during the 1993-94 crop year," says Ruud. "Even though Finnish and Swedish production may return to normal levels following last year's drought, we should still be able to expand our exports into the U.S. this year.

"As well, that means prices for number one and two grade oats should remain strong, near current levels, into next fall."

With prices for top grades near the upper end of historical highs, Ruud says producers have some incentive to forward contract some of their expected production.

Lower grade oats have been in competition with the glut of other feedgrains. "Consequently they've been locked in a sideways pattern at about $1.25 to $1.40 per bushel," he says.

Ruud adds large stocks of feedgrain will take awhile to work their way through the system. "As we move through the summer months, the feed market tends to weaken as farmers make bin space available and feedlots empty out. I don't see a lot of price relief for these lower grade oats until after next fall."

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Barley market changing

The barley market will look quite different in the next crop year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Along with the new continental barley market, the Canadian Grain Commission has also announced changes to the barley grading system," says Larry Ruud.

The continental barley market takes effect on August 1. The Canadian Wheat Board will no longer have sole control of selling barley. Farmers and private grain traders will also be able to sell feed and malt barley directly into the U.S.

The Winnipeg Commodity Exchange followed that by announcing a new barley futures contract. It will likely start trading on August 1 and be designed for growers and users of the continental market. "It's expected this new contract will run parallel to the two other contracts currently traded," notes Ruud.

As well, the Canadian Grain Commission also announced changes to the barley grading system. A new "Extra 1CW barley" grade has been added along with a series of grades for hulless barley. The Extra 1CW will have a test weight requirement of approximately 50 pounds per bushel.

Export specifications have also been tightened. Total foreign material has been reduced from four per cent to 2.5 per cent.

"These grading and export changes more accurately reflect the developing markets and quality of barley grown in Western Canada," says Ruud.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Teachers learn agriculture at summer education institute

On July 18 30 teachers from across Alberta will leave Olds College with a more solid understanding of the province's most basic industry.

The fourth annual Summer Agricultural Institute started yesterday (July 11) and provides teachers with an opportunity to both experience the agricultural industry and receive credit for a fourth-year university level course.

The institute's structure changed in 1993. "We've condensed the institute from 11 days to eight. The instructional time hasn't been reduced, just some breaks participants once had are gone. All the elements that has made this course so worthwhile are still there, such as time spent with a host farm-family. We think we've planned a more efficient use of the time," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture agricultural awareness co-ordinator and one of the institute's founders.

Another change, is in order to receive university credit for the course, each participant must complete the project at home after the institute, rather than during the course. "This makes the institute more flexible for some who would prefer it just as professional development," notes Gabert.

Olds College is hosting the institute for the second time in three years. The first institute was held at Lethbridge Community College and the third at Lakeland College in Vermilion. "Olds College only had a one-year break and all of us who believe in agricultural education, appreciate their dedication and commitment," says Gabert.

Gabert also has high praise for the agricultural organizations and individuals who continue to support and fund institute activities. "In particular I want to recognize UFA for providing full scholarships for the participants, and a new major sponsor the Alberta Barley Commission for sponsoring the institute's banquet entertainment."

During the eight full days, the 30 teacher participants spend time in the classroom and in the "field". Tours and time on actual farms are combined with hands-on training and practical curriculum development.

The ultimate goal of the program is to encourage teachers to incorporate agriculture in their classrooms. Institute graduates are encouraged to become "agricultural ambassadors" at their schools. Some graduates have gone on to win national and provincial awards for their work.

Contact:	*Betty Gabert*	*Alex England*
	427-2402	*556-4663*

Propane used in farm vehicles eligible for tax rebate

Farmers who use propane-fuelled farm vehicles are eligible for a refund if they paid Alberta fuel tax on their propane purchases.

"To assist farmers reduce their high input costs, they have been eligible for tax rebates and exemptions on farm fuel purchases for many years. For the most part this has been for marked diesel fuel and gasoline," says John Chang of Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch. "But this tax refund also applies to propane."

The rebate also applies to propane used in off-road, farming operations he adds.

Refund applications can be submitted every three months and must be made within three years after the end of the year when the fuel was purchased.

The Alberta fuel tax on propane was five cents per litre between June 1, 1990 and April 6, 1991. The tax increased to 6.5 cents per litre on April 7, 1991.

"Only fuel where tax was paid is eligible for the refund," notes Chang. "Check your propane billings to see if you have been charged this fuel tax on your farm purchase of propane."

Application forms for the refund and more information are available from Alberta Treasury, Tax and Revenue Administration, 9811-109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2L5. In the Edmonton area call 427-3044, and outside Edmonton call 1-800 262-9069 (toll-free in Alberta).

Contact: *John Chang*
427-2181

Agri-News briefs

Futures options market now on grain commission line

The Alberta Grain Commission now provides a daily futures options market report on its phone-in market report system. This new feature reports on twelve futures option markets closest to the money. There are puts and calls for two contract months for canola, feed wheat and flaxseed. To hear this report, call 1-800-661-2474, or in the Edmonton area dial 426-4941. On a touch-tone telephone, push 1 and 4 in the menu system. The report recorded is developed with the assistance of the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange. The exchange provides the market information. For more information, contact David Walker in Edmonton at 427-7329.

Choppy price outlook in lamb market

Slaughter lamb prices won't be steady through the summer months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. Feeder lamb prices, though, are likely to rise gradually says Jo Ann Sandhu. "Slaughter lamb prices will be choppy. A strong demand in southern Alberta should see feeder prices rise gradually. In the north, prices will depend more on how many lambs have to be sold because of poor pasture conditions. Late June rains will have helped," she says. Sandhu says tighter supply conditions for feeder and slaughter lambs are likely through July. For more information, contact Sandhu in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Animal care group founded

Several Alberta producer organizations have joined together to form the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care. The founding member organizations represent a broad cross section of Alberta's livestock and poultry industry. The organization will: monitor and participate in issues and legislation that affect animal care; develop, collect and distribute pertinent and credible information about issues; encourage relevant research about animal care; and, engage in education and information programs relating to animal care through the media, general public and the education system. "Our mission is to foster an understanding of the humane and responsible use of animals, whether that be in the food, fibre and by-products industries, in research or for work, recreation and companionship," says Randy Archibald, foundation chairman and a livestock producer. "We invite interested parties with similar objectives to join our organization in order to accomplish this objective." Archibald adds that the foundation hopes to network with similar organizations in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. For more information, contact the Alberta Foundation for Animal Care in writing at 310, 3016-5th Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2A 6K4, telephone 299-2699 or FAX 299-2670.

Check for yellow headed spruce sawfly

Are the needles of your prize spruce tree disappearing at an alarming rate? "If they are, perhaps the yellow headed spruce sawfly is at work," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. Damage begins as the insects eat only parts of new needles. As they grow, they strip the new growth before moving back to old growth. Needle loss retards the growth of trees, and repeated attacks can seriously weaken trees so they become susceptible to environmental factors. "Which," adds Barkley, "can kill the trees." The caterpillar-like spruce sawfly larva are yellowish green with either a yellow or green head. As the larva grow, they develop a series of dark green stripes down their body. The biggest trick to controlling this insect is actually seeing them, as they look very similar to spruce needles. Adults lay their eggs on the terminal growth of the spruce in late May and early June. These eggs hatch two weeks later. The hatched "caterpillars" can feed for a period of three to eight weeks, then drop to the ground, dig into the duff under the tree and spend the winter in cocoons. Pupation takes place in the spring, and the cycle continues. Fortunately there is only one generation per year. Controlling the insect is relatively simple says Barkley. Hand picking is one option if you only have a few trees. Hosing the larva off with water can also work. There are also several chemical options. Inspecting the tree and watching for these pests is the most important part of control she adds. For more information, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Tractors and traction also at Vermilion and Hairy Hill

A farm tractor is expensive and is used for a variety of jobs. There are a number of things farmers can do to improve their tractor's performance and reduce operating costs. Two clinics in northeastern Alberta in late July will show how to save fuel, do preventative maintenance and properly ballast and adjust tire pressure. Benefits are lower operating costs, longer service life and better tractor performance. The first clinic is at Lakeland College in Vermilion July 19 and 20, and the second on John Bidulock's farm near Hairy Hill July 21 and 22. During the first day, a 150 horsepower diesel and a dynometer will be used to demonstrate the effects of partially plugged air filters, dirty oil and fuel filters, and restricted exhaust systems. Radial tires on four-wheel drive tractors have caused "power hop". On the second day, a field demonstration shows how to properly ballast and adjust tire pressure to overcome this problem. For more information on these field days, call Alberta Agriculture's regional office in Vermilion at 853-8224, John Bidulock at 657-3354.

Grain Vision 93 July 26-28

Why international buyers use Canadian grain and what those buyers' food and feed industry requirements will be over the next decade are the two central questions addressed at Grain Vision 93. The international symposium on grain quality sponsored by the Canadian Grain Commission runs July 26 through 28 in Winnipeg. Wheat is the only topic on July 27, while malting and feed barley, canola and flax will be addressed on July 28. General registration costs are $250, but grain producers can register for half that price, $125. For more information, contact Cathy Krawetz at (204)984-4697, Don LaBerge at (204)984-4476 or FAX Grain Vision 93 at (204)984-4478.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
AUG - 5 1993

July 19, 1993

Financial planning new home study software program

Alberta Agriculture home study program's newest computer software program is designed to help farmers develop sound farm financial plans.

The Farm Financial Planning Worksheets program uses enterprise budgets, cash flow income statements and balance sheets to produce the information needed to make informed management decisions says Faye Doulgas-Phillips, home study program co-ordinator.

The total software package includes a disk, user guide, tutorial to demonstrate how the program works, reference guide and paper worksheets.

"The reference guide and paper worksheets provide the tools for individuals to apply the software to their own business situation," says Faye Douglas Phillips. "You can analyze various business alternatives and develop a complete farm plan that meets cash flow and profit objectives."

An IBM or IBM-compatible personal computer, a hard drive, 640 K internal memory of RAM and color or monochrome video display are needed to run Farm Financial Planning Worksheets.

"This financial planning program will also be more useful if you have records on production plans, inventory and production expenses," she notes.

Farm Financial Planning Worksheets was developed by department specialists at the farm business management branch in Olds. "It's an excellent complement to the production courses available from the home study program," she says.

Unlike other home study programs, this software will be available through local retailers.

For more information on local retailers contact your Alberta Agriculture district office, the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240 or the home study program in Edmonton at 427-2404.

Contact:	*Faye Douglas Phillips*	*Bruce Waldie*
	427-2404	*556-4243*

Using carryover stocks in marketing plans

Understanding crop carryover statistics is a big step in adding a market outlook to your farm's marketing plan, says an Alberta Agriculture regional market economist.

"You can make a marketing plan that anticipates the results of large or small carryover on projected revenue," says Doug Cornell.

One of the standard formats for displaying market outlook information is with a supply and disposition table. Supply and disposition tables are used to calculate the amount of crop stocks carried over into the next year. Carryover stocks can quickly summarize the supply and demand for a crop in a given year.

"The smaller the carryover stocks, the higher the price will have to be to ration supplies out to those using the crop. With

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Financial planning new home study software program 1
Using carryover stocks in marketing plans 1
Destroy lythrum advice for gardeners 2
New custom rates summary publication available 2
Air seeder boots report available 3
Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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a larger carryover, there's less risk of not having enough crop to satisfy demand, so prices are weaker," says the Airdrie-based Cornell.

He notes the market analysis and statistic branch's "Monthly Commentary and Outlook" often includes these tables. In the tables there are usually four previous years' carryover numbers. "These historic numbers make this year's projection more relevant," adds Cornell.

A Stocks/use ratio is another quick, handy and fundamental outlook number. This ratio relates crop carryover to the annual crop consumption. It is calculated by dividing the carryover stocks by expected usage that year and is expressed as a percentage.

For example, a 42.3 per cent stocks/use ratio for Canadian barley basically says there are enough barley supplies at the end of the crop year—July 31— to last four-tenths of the next year. That's a five month supply. The four year average is 25 per cent stocks/use ratio, a three month supply.

"For you, the individual farmer, a 42.3 per cent barley stocks/use ratio should signal two things. One, no new crop barley is needed in the market until January. This tends to hold Western Barley Futures prices down through the fall months. At the same time the large barley volume takes pressure off the basis—the differences between futures and your local price.

"If barley users know there's adequate barley available, they won't have to raise their cash price for barley. If futures rise, the basis will widen," says Cornell.

Secondly, carryover stocks also give an indication of delivery opportunities. "With a high carryover, finding a market can be difficult. Contracts and quotas may be in short supply because of the demand on delivery opportunities," he says.

For more information on marketing plans, contact your regional market economist or local Alberta Agriculture district office.

To subscribe to the department's "Monthly Commentary and Outlook" contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Doug Cornell
948-8536

Destroy lythrum advice for gardeners

Home gardeners can play a part in helping Canadian wetland and wilderness areas by destroying any domestic lythrum or purple loosestrife they have in their yards says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"We've learned through a study in Manitoba last year that the popular Morden pink lythrum will cross-pollinate with its wild loosestrife cousin and produce viable seed," says Shaffeek Ali of the soil and crop management branch in Edmonton.

"Nearly a dozen of the horticultural varieties had been thought of as safe and not able to produce viable seed. Morden pink in fact is what we recommended last year as safe. However, research has changed that. So, garden centres have stopped selling lythrum and we're suggesting people remove any they have in their garden or yard," he adds.

Purple loosestrife was declared a noxious weed in Alberta in 1992. Those regulations apply to anyone growing lythrum or purple loosestrife.

"You have to be thorough," notes Ali. The entire root mass must be removed from the ground. All plant parts should be dried and burned. Don't compost them. If burning is prohibited, plant parts should be dried and sealed in plastic before disposal. The site should be checked for at least two years to stop re-infestation.

Lythrum has been a popular perennial with a long bloom season, winter hardiness and a lack of serious pest problems. In the wild, purple loosestrife is equally attractive, but is also a "beautiful killer". The plant will completely take over a wetland and eliminate all habitat for wildlife.

Purple loosestrife is most likely found in wetland areas including sloughs, dugouts and lakes. It grows between three and six feet high and has long pink/purple spike flowers from June through September. Highly competitive, seeds germinate quickly once they touch the ground. Some authorities estimate one plant can produce 100,000 seeds annually. The plant isn't native to North America. It was introduced from Europe in the 1800s.

Anyone who spots purple loosestrife should report it immediately to the soil and crop management branch in Edmonton. The number is 427-7098. That is toll-free through the nearest Alberta government RITE centre.

Contact: Shaffeek Ali
427-7098

New custom rates summary publication available

If you need help with the reoccurring question—How much should I budget for in charging or paying for custom work?—an annual Alberta Agriculture publication has some answers for you.

"The department annually surveys custom operators to obtain actual rates charged and publishes them in a summary the follow year," notes Alex Ostapiuk, farm management economist. The 1993 publication is a summary of all rates in 1992 he adds.

Custom operation rates are summarized in a number of tables. The categories are: tillage, seeding, fertilizer application, herbicide application, grain harvesting, haying, silage, grain processing, livestock feeding, livestock hauling,

Cont'd on page 3

corral cleaning, fencing, breaking and clearing land, machinery rental, soil testing and land leasing.

"When you're budgeting, keep in mind that rates are affected by factors such as the equipment used, and supply and demand. These may vary significantly even within a district," says Ostapiuk who is based at the farm business management branch in Olds.

"Also remember that seven per cent GST applies to all agricultural custom work, but it's also eligible for the GST refundable input tax credit," he adds.

The custom rates information is also available electronically through the Compu-Farm bulletin board system. With a computer and modem, call 556-4104 and select "custom rates" from the database menu.

For a copy of the "Custom Rates Survey Summary", contact your local Alberta Agriculture district office or write the Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. For more specific information, contact Ostapiuk at 556-4235.

Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235

Air seeder boots reports available

Farmers who want to know how air-seeder boots work can study two research reports recently released by the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge.

"I received many phone calls from farmers about purchasing air-seeder boots for their air-seeding system," says Lawrence Papworth, project engineer at the centre. "This interest prompted the centre to conduct a laboratory test to measure the spread patterns of boots available on the market."

The resulting research reports look at the spread patterns of canola and wheat. Each report has information on the ease of installation and the specifications of the boots. Photographs of each seed boot are included in each report.

There are two types of air-seeder seed boots on the market notes Papworth. One type leaves the seed in a single row, and the other splits the seed into two rows or a paired row. The single-row boots are commonly used on narrow-spaced cultivators and the paired-row boots on wide-spaced cultivators.

"The seed boots we tested were designed to mount on the back of cultivator shanks and used with a sweep type opener," he says.

Spread pattern measurements were taken in the lab. Sprayer-marking foam and a conveyor belt were used to catch the seed. A moist, soft soil condition was simulated.

"Test conditions didn't allow for any seed bounce, so soil conditions that permit seed bounce would result in wider spread patterns," he warns.

For more information on air-seeding equipment, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6, or call 329-1212.

Contact: Lawrence Papworth
329-1212

Agri-News briefs

Prices up at 19th Ram Test Station Sale

The average price at the Alberta Ram Test Station sale was $433.68 this year, up from $328.62 in 1992. "This is clear evidence that the Alberta market for sheep breeding stock is at last pulling out of its price slump," says Kim Stanford, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist and station manager. The July 3 event drew buyers from across Western Canada. The highest price was $1,325 paid for a Suffolk ram from the Tom Seaborn flock in Rocky Mountain House. The top indexing ram was also a Suffolk ram. Its average daily gain was 0.657 kg per day. It came from the Kirk Seaborn flock. The Suffolk breed set an average growth rate record of 0.555 kg per day in 1993. Another record was set by a Polypay ram owned by Pete Lawson of Okotoks. It had a 0.508 kg per day rate of gain. Tom Seaborn was also awarded the Alberta Sheep Breeder's trophy for the highest group average daily gain in four or more rams. His Suffolk rams averaged 0.582 kg per day. The Canadian Co-operative Wool Grower's trophy for the yearling with the highest overall index on the Wools Breeds test went to an Olds College Rambouillet ram. In 1993, 135 rams from 21 contributors were entered at the test station. Only rams above the station average for average daily gain are considered for sale. A culling committee then looks at conformation. For more information, contact Stanford in Lethbridge at 382-4187.

1993 Farm Enterprize Manual available

A reference manual with management information on eight Alberta farm enterprises is now available. The manual was complied by the farm business management branch in Olds. It's designed as a quick awareness reference with contacts for specific expertise. Formerly titled, "Agricultural Lenders Manual", the reference guide is reprinted annually as a reference for a five day farm lenders' course. Factors affecting profits in beef, cow/calf, crops, dairy, swine, sheep, horse, beekeeping and poultry operations are outlined in the manual. It also has sections on irrigation, machinery, agricultural resources and marketing. Anyone interested in the 1993 manual should send a cheque made payable to Olds College for $37.45 to: Ron Lane, Extension Services, Olds College, Olds Alberta, T0M 1P0, or call him at 556-4643. More information is also available from Alex Ostapiuk at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4235.

ACC now accepting Nominations

The Alberta Cattle Commission is now accepting nominations for zone delegates until August 27, 1993. This year 45 delegate positions need to be filled across the province. The province is divided into nine zones with 10 delegates elected from each zone. The election is for a two-year term. Delegates can serve three consecutive terms. Eligible candidates are cattle producers who have marketed cattle in Alberta during the past 18 months. Election meetings are held between October 25 and November 12 throughout the province. All candidates must submit a resume with a nomination form. Eligible producers can obtain nomination forms and more information by calling their local delegate or the Alberta Cattle Commission in Calgary for nomination forms and more information. Zone delegates are: zone 1, Larry Helland, Lomond, at 792-2150; zone 2, Gary Brown, Stavely, 549-3787; zone 3, Jim Turner, Cochrane, 932-5278; zone 4, Harold Carter, Kinsella, 386-2205; zone 5, Wilbur Stewart, Big Valley, 876-2784; zone 6, Arnold Hansen, Viking, 336-2598; zone 7, Fred van Ingen, Redwater, 942-2189; zone 8, Karl Schneider, Mannville, 763-2447; and, zone 9 Bob Balisky, Debolt, 957-2247. The commission office in Calgary can be reached at 275-4400.

Westerner Days in Red Deer July 20-25

Westerner Days start tomorrow (July 20) in Red Deer. The agricultural portion of the fair includes a number of livestock shows, an Agriculture Links Up with Space display, a heavy horse pull and "the Little Red Barn". The livestock shows include beef and dairy cattle, mules, donkeys, goats, sheep, miniature horses, llamas and light horses. For more information, call the Westerner Exposition Association in Red Deer at 343-7800.

1993 Zone 3 Summer Pulse Tour

The Pulse Growers Commission, Zone 3, is holding a summer tour on Monday, July 26, 1993. The tour will be held in the Barrhead - Westlock area. Stops include new field pea and fababean variety trials, foreign pea screening trials and field pea disease trials. The tour includes a visit to a land rolling and seeding depth trial and a four-year pulse crop rotation site. Registration for the tour will be held at the Freedom Hall at 9 a.m. and the bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. The cost for the tour is $20 per person, including both lunch and barbecue supper. For more information call the Alberta Agriculture offices in Morinville at 939-4351; Westlock at 349-4465; or Barrhead at 674-8213.

Food Security and Nutrition Theme of AIC Conference

The 73rd annual Agricultural Institute of Canada conference revolves around the theme of "food: security and nutrition". The conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland from August 18 through 21. Included at the conference are plenary sessions, scientific society meetings, a rural development symposium and technical sessions. For more information, phone Dale Sudom at (709) 772-4619 or Donna Killand at (709) 729-5090.

Phone. (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

July 26, 1993

CANADIANA

SEP - 1 1993

Budgeting for custom silage operations

If you plan to use custom operators to put up silage, you may want to use an Alberta Agriculture survey of last year's custom silaging rates to help budget says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The survey included costs for both the traditional silage pit and also the bagging method," says Alex Ostapiuk, farm management economist with the farm business management in Olds.

Cutting forage ranged between six and seven dollars per acre, $40 per hour or 75 cents to one dollar per wet ton. To chop and haul silage to a pit, with a one to three mile haul, the cost ranged between four and seven dollars per wet ton or $165 to $250 per hour. "Two years ago, packing was an additional $1.50 per wet ton or $40 to $50 per hour," notes Ostapiuk.

Rates for chopping, hauling and bagging varied with the size of the bag used to store the silage. The rate also included the price of the bag.

For an eight foot by 150 foot bag and nine foot by 135 foot bag (about 130 to 150 tons per bag), the rate for chopping, hauling and bagging was about $1,650. A rate of $2,000 was charged for a nine foot by 150 foot bag and between $2,600 and $2,650 for a 10 foot by 150 foot bag. These rates included the bag.

"Keep in mind that GST applies to custom operations but with certain rules," he adds. "If a producer is registered for GST purposes and **provides** custom services, then GST must be calculated on the service provided. On the other hand, GST registered producers **receiving** the service are eligible to claim a refundable input tax credit for the custom service."

For more information on custom rates for silaging and other farm services, contact your local district agriculturist or Alex Ostapiuk at 556-4235.

Contact: *Alex Ostapiuk*
556-4235

One in 10 Alberta producers working on soil salinity

About 11 per cent of Alberta producers are using some sort of method to control soil salinity says the province's soil salinity specialist.

"The statistic of 11.1 per cent or 6,469 Alberta producers making some sort of effort to control salinity is from the 1991 Agricultural Census," says Don Wentz of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"About 1.6 million acres of farmland are affected by salinity," he adds. Soil salinity is a major problem on both irrigated and dryland in the semi-arid regions of the North American Great Plains.

The Lethbridge region had most of the province's farmers reporting salinity control measures at 34.7 per cent of the total. It also had the highest percentage of producers in the region using

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Budgeting for custom silage operations 1
One in 10 Alberta producers working on soil salinity 1
Food safety first on picnics 2
No pink in that hamburger! 3
4-Hers off to lands of midnight and rising sun 3
How to fight lawn fairy ring 4
Recognize garden pests to control their damage 4
Many alternatives to yard and garden pesticides 5
Alberta Agriculture appointments 6
Briefs 7

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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control measures, some 26.8 per cent. The most concentrated areas were around Warner, Taber, Newell and Vulcan.

The south central region also had a fairly high percentage of producers involved in salinity control. The overall region average was 14.8 per cent. Most were around Starland and Special Area #3. The Red Deer (north central) and northeast regions have about 10 per cent of their producers practising salinity control. The least amount of salinity problems are in the northwest and Peace regions notes Wentz.

"Alberta Agriculture has a service to help producers locate the source of their salinity problem and provide assistance with control," he says. The Dryland Salinity Investigation (DSI) program started in 1982. It helps producers locate their problem recharge area.

The best control, he adds, is planting a high moisture, deep rooted crop such as alfalfa in the recharge area. The saline seep area is then planted to a salt-tolerant grass species such as tall wheatgrass.

"After six to seven years, the water table drops and the seep area starts to recover," says Wentz. "There are now several recovered areas where producers have been able to go back to annual crop production."

Wentz adds producers must continue to monitor the site for increases in water table levels. "Good crop management is especially important in saline areas."

Producers who think they need a Dryland Salinity Investigation should contact their Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, municipal agricultural fieldman, regional soil or crop specialist, the Dryland Salinity Control Association or the conservation and development branch in Lethbridge at 381-5153.

Contact: Don Wentz
381-5153

Food safety first on picnics

If you're going on a picnic, remember to keep cold foods cold, and hot foods hot says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

After 20 minutes at room temperature bacteria begin to grow in both hot and cold foods. After two hours of foods sitting at room temperature, there could be a serious problem. "When you leave the advantages of the refrigerator in your kitchen, you need to be especially careful," says Linda St. Onge, an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

"In the summer there's a real challenge in keeping cold foods cold," she adds. "Bacteria can take advantage of the warm weather, just as you want to be outside when it's nice."

One way to meet that challenge is to thoroughly chill fresh foods before packing them. "Don't expect the impossible from a cooler," she adds. "Coolers are made to keep foods cool, not to make them cool. Choose a good cooler and use it properly."

Coolers should be well insulated, form a tight seal when closed and have a rust-proof interior. Vinyl insulated bags and styrofoam ice chests are fine for short periods, such as an hour or two, but aren't recommended for longer time periods.

Also, prechill coolers before packing food in them. Fill with ice or ice water and allow the cooler to stand for an hour. To keep foods cool, put a layer of ice on the bottom of the cooler and pack ice blocks around foods.

"Freeze juice boxes to make 'edible freezer packs'," she suggests. "This can really make the most of your cooler space.

Since the bottom of the cooler is coldest, pack perishable foods there and eat them first. For best cooling, leave room for air to circulate inside the cooler. If the meal is near a lake or stream, use a water proof hamper and put it in the water, or find a shady place for the cooler. Finally, open the cooler only when necessary.

Cont'd on page 3

Statistics Canada Summary - Provincial

	Total No. of Farms	No. of Farms Using Some Measures to Control Salinity	Per cent of Total Using Measures to Control	Per cent of Regional Total Using Measures to Control	Per cent of Measures to Control with DSI	Total DSI clients
Region I	8359	2246	34.7	26.8	14.2	320
Region II	8365	1245	19.2	14.8	5.2	65
Region III	11244	1136	17.5	10.0	1.8	21
Region IV	9564	1023	15.8	10.6	2.4	25
Region V	12108	400	6.1	3.3	0.2	1
Region VI	8570	419	6.4	4.9	1.6	7
TOTALS	58210	6469	99.7	11.1	6.8	439

Questions about salad and mayonnaise are common during the picnic season St. Onge adds. A frequent misconception is that if mayonnaise hasn't been added to the salad, then there's no problem with how the salad is stored. Not so, she says. "Harmful bacteria prefer a low acid environment such as meat, eggs, dairy products and vegetables. Mayonnaise is acidic and helps prevent bacteria growth, but its extra moisture does promote bacteria growth. What this means is that with or without mayonnaise, potato, meat, fish or pasta salads still must be kept cold."

Food safety starts before packing a picnic. Always handle food carefully she says. "Make sure your hands, utensils and work surfaces are clean. Prevent cross-contamination by cleaning cutting boards between uses and not putting cooked meat on a plate used for raw meat."

For more information on safe food handling and preparation, contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or St. Onge in Edmonton at 427-2412.

Contact: Linda St. Onge
427-2412

No pink in that hamburger!

An Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist has a simple warning for anyone barbecuing hamburgers, "Beware the undercooked!"

"A safe hamburger shouldn't have even a touch of pink," says Aileen Whitmore, of the home economics and 4-H branch in Edmonton. "And that's not just when barbecuing, it's anytime you cook hamburger or eat one at a restaurant."

Undercooked hamburger carries with it the potential of a type of food poisoning commonly referred to as "hamburger disease" or "barbeque syndrome". Thorough cooking will destroy the **E. coli** bacteria associated with this type of food poisoning.

"That means the centre of a hamburger patty is brown and juices are clear. And this should apply not only to your home cooking, but also when you eat at a restaurant," she says.

While hamburger tops the list as a potential source of **E. coli**, it isn't the only candidate. The list includes all types of meat—the bacteria is usually found on the surface of all raw meats—and raw milk. Hamburger is more likely to be contaminated with this bacteria than other meats as during its grinding process surface contaminants spread through the uncooked ground meat.

Whitmore says how people handle food could cause food poisoning at any time. "Preventing this type of food poisoning requires safe food handling and preparation all the time," she stresses.

Safety starts with choosing fresh products at the grocery store. Refrigerate or freeze meat as soon as possible after purchase. Frozen meat should be thawed in the refrigerator or microwave, but not at room temperature. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator.

"Raw meats shouldn't be allowed to sit at room temperature, but just as important, once meat is cooked, serve it quickly because the environment is right for bacterial growth when the food's temperature goes below 60°C. Keep your hot food hot and put leftovers in the refrigerator promptly," she says.

Cleanliness is another important factor in preventing food poisoning. "One of the biggest mistakes people make, especially when barbecuing, is putting cooked meat on the same plate the raw meat was on. You prevent the bacteria from growing by cooking, then turn around and recontaminate the food with raw juices. Always put cooked food on a clean plate," she advises.

Utensils, cutting boards and counters must be washed with hot soapy water and sterilized to prevent bacteria from contacting other foods. To sterilize add a little bleach to the water. As well, cooks need to wash their hands well after handling raw meat.

Whitmore says a common question people ask is whether the "pink test" applies to steak. "Because the bacteria is usually harboured on the meat's surface, the pink centre of a rare or medium steak shouldn't be dangerous as long as the outside of the steak has been cooked."

Hamburger disease is a gastrointestinal illness caused by **E. coli** bacteria. The bacteria produces a poison, or toxin, that damages the intestine's lining and results in hemorrhagic colitis. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps, bloody diarrhea and a mild fever two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Anyone with those symptoms should contact their physician.

Most people recover from the illness within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the **E. coli** toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This kidney failure is especially dangerous to young children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

For more information on safe food handling and preparation, contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist, or Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-2412.

Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

4-Hers off to lands of midnight and rising sun

Alberta 4-H delegates are travelling north and east, one group to Canada's north and the "Land of the Midnight Sun", and the other to Japan and the "Land of the Rising Sun".

Four delegates are currently in Japan for four weeks as part of an exchange co-ordinated by the Labo International Exchange Foundation. They are Heather Smid of Rocky Mountain House, Karl Steiner of Vulcan, Angela Sandberg of Stettler and Daniel Gray from Big Stone.

"They have gone on a once in a lifetime opportunity," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange

Cont'd on page 4

specialist. She adds the Albertans met with other delegates from Saskatchewan and Utah before leaving for Japan.

Meanwhile, today (July 26) 18 Japanese youths and two chaperones arrive in Alberta for a four week stay. "After a brief stop in Edmonton, the delegates will spend the rest of the time with their host families," notes Stark. "This enables them to become comfortable with their host family and really experience Canadian culture first-hand."

The delegates will be hosted by families in Sherwood Park, Ardrossan, Eckville, Rocky Mountain House, High River, Rockyford, Vauxhall, Taber, Warner, Fort Macleod, Vulcan, Big Stone and Stettler.

Later this week, 22 Alberta 4-Hers will return after spending 12 days on an Alberta/Northwest Territories agricultural development tour.

"The trip, sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches and Edmonton Northlands, is designed to increase awareness of the diversity of agriculture in our province and the NWT. Delegates will also gain knowledge and an appreciation for different cultures and lifestyles," says Stark.

The 22 delegates and three chaperones will camp enroute. They will stop at many agricultural processing and production facilities on their tour. "When shopping for supplies, they will also try to purchase Alberta products wherever possible. They will also look for Alberta products available in the Northwest Territories," she adds.

The Alberta delegates are: Dee Aarsby, Carstairs; Shari Bagozzi, Vulcan; Jenise Beier, Altario; Chris Bonde, Rocky Mountain House; Tim Bowman, Onoway; Renn Breitkreuz, Onoway; Calvin Cassity, Wembley; Tim Chubb, Bon Accord; Leann Gorgichuk, Two Hills; Angela Habberfield, Crossfield; Carolyn Hall, Airdrie; David James, Okotoks; Karen and Kirsty Kotke, Fort Macleod; Gregory Kozak, Hardisty; Erick Leibel, Edmonton; Billie Jo Mitchell, Kitscoty; Nancy Muchka, Acme; Sheldon Nadeau, Fort Macleod; Heather Robertson, Airdrie; Shawna Willis, Mayerthorpe; and, Mark Jacklin Beaverlodge. The chaperones are leaders Alan Hobbs of Czar and Janet Neihaus of Lougheed. Staff chaperone is Glynis Fallon, district home economist in Provost.

Delegates were chosen for this trip at Selections'93. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

Contact: *Marguerite Stark* *Glynis Falloon*
948-8510 *733-6871*
Ellen Bonde
Labo\Alberta exchange co-ordinator
845-6894

How to fight lawn fairy ring

One of the most common problems people battle in their lawns is the fight to control fairy ring.

People often first recognize the fungal disease as small tan mushrooms growing in a circle. But, the first sign of disease is when very dark green colored grass grows quickly in a circular or semi circular pattern says Gail Rankin, an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

"The mushrooms are the fruiting stage of the fungus and usually appear during or after rainy weather," she says.

There isn't a particular pesticide control for fairy ring, so digging out the infected area is the only way to get rid of the fungus says Rankin. If the sod is stripped off, an abundance of greyish-white strands are visible. This is the mycelium, or vegetative growth, of the fungus. All the mycelium must be removed or the fungus will grow again. The mycelium can be a few centimetres in the soil, or go as deep as 30 cm.

"To ensure you remove all the mycelium as you dig out the ring, you should also dig the area 30 cm from the inner and outer edges of the ring," recommends Rankin. "It's also important not to drop any of the infected soil on the healthy part of your lawn."

If the ring can't be dug right away, symptoms of the fungus can be masked. If only the dark green rings are present, the entire lawn can be fertilized and watered. For more severe cases, a "poke and soak" method can disguise fairy ring. Use a garden fork to make holes 25 cm deep and 10 to 15 cm apart throughout the ring and 30 cm beyond the inside and outside edges. Put a small amount of liquid soap in the holes. The soap is a wetting agent to help water penetrate the dry, waxy fungal layer. Then, water heavily every second day until the ground is soggy. The fungus cuts off the water supply to the grass roots, so heavy watering encourages the grass to grow back.

Contact: *Gail Rankin*
422-1789

Recognize garden pests to control their damage

Wilting plants, yellowing leaves and holes in plants are all indications a pest could have invaded one of your garden crops says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The assorted insects that attack vegetable crops and other plants in your yard and garden are part of gardening. Recognizing what is causing the damage and how to prevent or control that damage is an important part of growing a successful garden," says Gail Rankin of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Among common pests in the garden are slugs, root maggots, aphids and potato beetles she says.

Cont'd on page 5

Slugs eat holes in both plant leaves and fruit. "While not selective because they can be found on a variety of plants, they do have their favourites. These include soft leaved plants such as beans, lettuce, peas and cole crops as well as marigolds," says Rankin.

The greyish-brown pest has a slimy tubular body that looks like a snail without its shell. The one to three centimetre long slugs leave a shiny wet trail on leaves where they've fed. "You can confirm you have slugs in your garden by looking at plants during their feeding times in the early morning and evening," she says.

Adequate spacing between plants is one way to control slugs. This increases air circulation, the soil dries out more and so is less pleasing to slugs. Keeping gardens weeded also gives slugs fewer places to hide.

Rankin has a number of non-chemical suggestions for removing the pests. They can be picked by hand when small in number. If boards are placed between rows, slugs will hide under the boards, then can be removed when boards are lifted up. Another method is leaving a hollowed out potato, grapefruit or melon rind. Place cut side down in the evening and by morning slugs will be inside. The potato or fruit rind can then be disposed of she says.

A number of commercial slug baits and pellets are also available. Rankin recommends placing baits on the soil surface and covering with a board or brick to keep them away from pets.

"The baits are poisonous to dogs and cats who will be attracted to the bait, so do be careful how you set out the bait," she says. She adds beer and yeast solutions can also be used to bait slugs.

Aphids also attack a wide variety of plants from vegetables through flowers. Aphids come in a variety of colors including green, black and pink and have a small, soft, pear-shaped bodies. They damage plants by sucking their sap. Leaves lose color, turn yellow and eventually die if not controlled.

"Look for aphids on young succulent growth, the new leaves and flower buds," says Rankin. "They reproduce rapidly so control in early stages is very important."

One of the easiest ways to control them is hosing off plants with a strong jet of water. Another method is spraying an insecticidal soap. "Before you spray, check for ladybugs. They will control the aphids for you," she notes.

Severe infestations can be controlled with organic rotenone in dust or liquid form. Malathion or diazinon can also be used. "If you spray for aphids, make sure the product you use is registered for vegetables and follow the preharvest interval instructions," she cautions.

This same rule applies to chemical control of root maggots, check the number of days required from application until harvest when using a pesticide on a food crop.

Soil drenching with liquid diazinon is one way to control root maggots. Follow directions on the label and apply around the base of each plant. Drenches can be repeated once every seven to 10 days from late July through mid-August.

Root maggots attack all types of cole crops—broccoli, cabbage, radishes and turnip—and also onions. The adult fly lays eggs in the soil that hatch into small white legless larvae that feed on roots.

Wilting and yellowing leaves are the first sign of root maggots, and digging up an infested plant will show very few feeder roots. Tunnelling into the edible portion of root crops will be visible.

Several non-chemical methods can control root maggots. One is wood ash sprinkled over the soil around plants. Other barriers, such as row covers and garden blankets at planting time, prevent adults from laying their eggs.

Potato beetles are also a common problem. Both adults and larvae eat leaves of host plants. One of the easiest ways to control a small area or infestation of the hard-shelled beetle is by picking them off plants by hand. Severe or large infestations can be controlled by spraying with carbaryl, diazinon, methoxychlor or organic rotenone.

An Alberta Agriculture publication can help gardeners with these and other pest problems Rankin says. "Backyard Pest Management" (Agdex 605-2) describes insects and weeds with illustrations and also methods of prevention and control strategies. It's available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Gail Rankin
422-1789

Many alternatives to yard and garden pesticides

An arsenal of pesticides are useful, but not always necessary to control pests in your yard and garden says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"There are a number of very simple methods you can use to prevent pests and control them," says Gail Rankin of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton. "These encompass the type of crops you plant, using companion planting, biological control and picking off insects by hand."

Cleanliness in the garden plot is one way to prevent pest problems she says. Keep the garden clean by removing trash and boards where insects can hide. Remove any heavily infested plants as well as weeds. "Some weeds may initially attract insects to the garden. They feed on them and then move to crops," she says.

Rotating what you plant also can help eliminate problem insects that overwinter in the soil. As well, Rankin says try growing insect tolerant crops that aren't as likely to attract pests such as carrots, beets and beans.

Another strategy is companion planting, which is using aromatic plants to ward off insects. Flowers, such as marigolds, calendula, nasturtiums and geraniums, and herbs including garlic, sage, basil and mint can perform this function.

Cont'd on page 6

"For example, by alternating a cole crop such as cabbage with repellent flowers you may have fewer pest problems," she says. She cautions this method can't be relied on completely. "Success of companion planting depends on many things including weather, pest populations and the particular crop cultivar. It's really important to monitor your plants."

Control of insects can also be as simple as washing them off with water. Small pests such as aphids, mites and pear slugs can be washed off with a strong stream of water. Water is especially effective as a control on trees when a high pressure spray is used she says.

Hand picking is another easy way to remove pests. This method works best with larger insects such as caterpillars, slugs and potato beetles.

Soap and water can be used to control insects, although Rankin recommends insecticidal soap that has been formulated to kill insects. She notes this can be toxic to some plants, in particular, ferns, sweet peas and nasturtiums. The soap method is effective on soft bodied pests including aphids, small caterpillars, mites and whiteflies.

Commercial biological controls are also on the market. One is Bt, available as Organic Insect Killer Liquid and Thuricide. The bacterium is used to control the larvae of moths and butterflies including tent caterpillars and cabbage worms.

Another commercial biological control is Rotenone, made from the roots of a tropical legume. Available in powder and liquid forms, it can control currant worms, caterpillars, flea beetles and Colorado potato beetles.

Biological control includes using beneficial insects to control a pest problem she adds. "Adult ladybugs and their larvae do eat aphids in large quantities. They also eat spider mites, whiteflies and mealy bugs," Rankin says. "While ladybugs might not eat all the aphids on a plant, they may reduce the population enough to limit damage."

Lacewings and spiders can also control destructive insects. Lacewings eat aphids and sometimes thrips and mites. Spiders are beneficial as they eat large numbers of insects.

Contact: Gail Rankin
422-1789

Alberta Agriculture appointments

Irrigation branch names position changes

Alberta Agriculture's irrigation branch has made some position changes in response to changing program demands.

Roger Hohm is now filling the new position of irrigation extension specialist. "This position has been established in response to a greater need for extension of irrigation water development and management information to both the industry and the general public," says Wally Chinn, head of the irrigation development section.

Hohm has been with the irrigation branch for 13 years. Most recently he served as irrigation agrologist and acting irrigation specialist in Lethbridge.

In his new position, Hohm will spend much of his time "packaging" technical and general awareness information in print and audio-visual formats for distribution to a wide variety of industry, educational and public interests.

Hohm's office is at the Agriculture Centre in Lethbridge and he can be contacted at 381-5856.

Gregg Dill, former regional engineer based in Lethbridge, is the new irrigation specialist at the Lethbridge district office. Dill has 16 years work experience with the department, primarily in the irrigated region.

"We're pleased to have the capabilities of such an experienced agricultural engineer working out of the Lethbridge district office," says Chinn.

Dill will be responsible for delivering irrigation branch programs at the farm level to the irrigation community in the southwest corner of the province. He'll be assisted by technical support staff.

"The region is one of the largest irrigated areas in the province and is also a region where the potential to expand irrigation development is expected to be the greatest," says Chinn.

"Changing times mean changing program emphases," he adds, "So, in addition to development and irrigation management programming, Mr. Dill will also be increasingly involved in related irrigation adaptive research and demonstrations."

Dill can also be reached at the Agriculture Centre in Lethbridge by calling 381-5136

Contact: Wally Chinn
381-5864

Roger Hohm
381-5856

Greg Dill
381-5136

Agri-News briefs

Zone 3 field pea harvest day August 24

Zone 3 of the Pulse Growers Commission is holding a field pea harvest and equipment demonstration August 24 near Legal. All activities will be at St. Denis Seed Farms, two miles south of the Legal corner on Highway 2. Desiccation and proper harvesting techniques will be discussed. Various types of harvesting and pulse handling equipment will be on display. As well, several dealers will demonstrate their combines on desiccated field peas. A site with conventional and direct seeded field peas can be toured. The $20 cost includes lunch and a barbecue supper. Pre-registration is required by August 20. To pre-register and for more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Morinville at 939-4351.

Lamb Days '93 at Canada West

Canada West is inviting producers to Lamb Days '93 August 12 and 19 at Innisfail. Included in the day's activities are: a demonstration of the new classification system, live grading of lambs, a discussion about railgrade versus liveweight, a video titled "Lamb to carcass" and an inside look at the working of the plant. Pre-registration is required. When the first two dates fill-up, Canada West will add other dates later in the year. For more information, contact Andrew Tye or Ray Fielding at 227-3386.

Alpaca workshop August 28

The second annual alpaca workshop features a guest speaker from Peru. Walter Bravo will discuss reproduction, feeding and care of the newborn alpaca at the workshop in the Pincher Creek area on August 28. Bravo has experience as a practicing and research veterinarian in both Peru and the United States. Other topics on the program are: fibre quality and use; alpaca conformation; a panel discussion on veterinary and general management practices: and, a demonstration of basic husbandry with a tour of the Mountain Meadows Ranch. The registration fee is $40 per person and the registration deadline is August 15. Local accommodations can be arranged with registration. For registration and other information, contact Hans or Karin Buhrmann, Mountain Meadows Ranch, Box 2307, Pincher Creek, Alberta, T0K 1W0, or call 627-5365.

Soil testing, plant analysis symposium August 14-19

The International Symposium on Soil Testing and Plant Analysis will be held in Olympia, Washington August 14 through 19. The symposium is designed to bring together scientists and agricultural specialists from around the world to improve soil and plant analysis methods and techniques, and to expand the use of these diagnostic tools to improve nutrient management. The Sulphur Institute will host a nitrogen and sulphur workshop as part of the symposium. Other topics include: status of soil and plant analysis around the world; laboratory management for quality assurance; and, precision nutrient management and its impact on the environment and needs for the future. For more information, contact Donald Messick at The Sulphur Institute in Washington, D.C., at (202)331-9660.

Swine AI Centre privatized

The Alberta Swine Genetics Corporation has purchased the Alberta Swine Artificial Insemination Centre from the provincial government. The centre was established near Leduc in 1978. It has contributed to genetic improvements in Alberta's swine herds and herd health. The purchaser, Alberta Swine Genetics Corporation, is a newly incorporated company owned by approximately 25 swine producers and other interested individuals. The firm is committed to the long-term operation of the centre by marketing high-quality genetics to Alberta producers. The sale includes a provision to protect the province's interests in seeing the facility continue to operate. Terms of the sale also specify the company must develop the business using its own resources as the province won't provide assistance to cover any operation losses. For more information, contact Richard Allen, president of the Alberta Swine Genetics Corporation, at 886-4300, or Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus, executive assistants to the Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister at 427-2137.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

August 2, 1993

CAESA awards over $900,000 for research projects

Over $900,000 has been awarded to Alberta researchers in the agriculture and food sectors through the Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (CAESA) agreement.

The resulting research will increase the ability of primary producers and food processors to become more environmentally friendly.

The governments of Canada and Alberta will equally share the cost of the CAESA agreement, with the federal government participating through the Green Plan Sustainable Agriculture Initiative. The two governments will provide up to $44.12 million over five years, ending March 31, 1997. A total of $5.5 million has been targeted for research.

The research program is made up of three components: a soil conservation chair at the University of Alberta, sustainable cropping studies and proposal based applied research projects. Funding for the conservation chair and the sustainable cropping studies continues support of projects initiated under the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) program. The proposal based research program is a new initiative.

Research proposals submitted for the first year of funding (April 1993 to March 1994) were reviewed in March 1993 by the broad-based producer, industry, government and research program committee.

Of the 75 research proposals submitted, 18 were supported for funding for a total of $927,199 in 1993-94. Fifteen of the supported proposals addressed one or more of CAESA's main priority areas: soil conservation (eight projects); water quality and quantity (three projects); pollution and waste management (three projects); and, wildlife habitat (one project). Two other projects dealt with alternative pest control and one project addressed precision farming systems. (**Editor's note:** The supported proposals are listed following this release. Names of the project managers and agencies are included.)

The deadline for 1994 applications is November 1, 1993. For additional information or application forms, contact Dr. Barry M. Olson by writing Agriculture Canada Research Station, Box 3000, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4B1; calling 327-4561; or, FAXing 382-3156.

Contact: *Dr. Barry Olson*
327-4561

CANADIANA

AUG 24 1993

This Week

CAESA awards over $900,000 for research projects 1

CARTT conservation project results available 2

All round commitment, enthusiasm advances ag institute 3

Record participation at provincial 4-H heifer show 4

4-H daring in Saskatchewan 4

California here they come 5

Briefs 5

Coming agricultural events notice 7

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

CAESA-funded research proposals funded April 1993 to March 1994

1. Extruded hulless barley for swine and reduction in manure production and pollution. F.X. Aherne, Animal Science Dept., University of Alberta, Edmonton ($25,185)
2. Tillage and cropping systems for soil conservation and sustainable crop production. M.A. Arshad, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge ($64,964)
3. Potato processing liquid effluent - feasibility study of sustainable disposal alternatives. B. Barl, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Brooks ($18,564)
4. Sustainable grazing systems for perennial and annual forages on sloped lands. V.S. Baron, Agriculture Canada, Lacombe ($98,809)
5. Manure and nutrient management to sustain groundwater quality near feedlots. D.R. Bennett, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Lethbridge ($46,000)
6. Critical factors to reduced herbicide use and maximize operational efficiency of weed sensing sprayer. R.E. Blackshaw, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($27,400)
7. Alternative methods to control insects, diseases and weeds in Alberta field crops. R.A. Butts, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($76,300)
8. Selection of perennial forage grasses for saline tolerance and productivity. R. Hermesh, Alberta Environment, Vegreville ($17,940)
9. Quality criteria for prairie soils of Alberta. H.H. Janzen, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($54,500)
10. Adjusting grassland insect contol practices to allow survival of grassland songbirds. D.L. Johnson, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($30,302)
11. Soil erosion-crop productivity relationships in southern Alberta. F.J. Larney, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($41,400)
12. Agriculture nonpoint pollution models: validation for use in Alberta. N.D. MacAlpine, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Edmonton ($61,258)
13. Biological control of perennial and winter annual weeds in uncultivated land and reduced tillage. A.S. McClay, Alberta Environment, Vegreville ($85,838)
14. Sustainability of manure management: nutrient retention and cost-benefit analysis. W.B. McGill, Soil Science Dept., University of Alberta, Edmonton ($56,580)
15. Precision farming systems to maximize profits and minimize environmental impacts. D.C. Penney, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Edmonton ($88,095)
16. Nitrates in soil and groundwater below long-term irrigation fields. S.J. Rodvang, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Lethbridge ($46,670)
17. Economics of conservation tillage systems in dry and humid regions of Canadian prairies. E.G. Smith, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge ($39,044)
18. Evaluation of field shelterbelts in Alberta. J.G. Timmermans, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Airdrie ($48,350)

CARTT conservation project results available

If you'd like to know more about soil and water conservation applied research and demonstrations, a new comprehensive report may be just what you need.

"CARTT Summary of Project Reports, 1987 to 1993" is now available. "This publication summarizes all projects funded by the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer, called CARTT for short," says Russel Horvey of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

CARTT, a $4 million agreement, ran from August 1987 to March 1993. It supported over 100 projects on a wide range of topical issues in conservation farming. The report includes projects funded through both of the CARTT A and B components.

"The CARTT projects have generated a great deal of valuable, relevant information," says Horvey, who was the CARTT B provincial coordinator. "This publication provides the key data for each of the research, applied research and larger demonstration projects in an easy-to-follow format."

The CARTT A program was directed at northeastern Alberta. It funded two major research projects. One evaluated zero, minimum and conventional tillage systems. The other looked at the feasibility of alternative crops and cropping systems including investigations of pulse plowdown, continuous cropping, pulse varieties and forage production.

On the other hand, CARTT B was a province-wide program for projects in technology transfer, demonstrations, awareness and applied research related to conservation farming. A total of 103 projects were supported over the term of the program.

Thirty-two were large, ongoing demonstrations. "These projects often involved replicated treatments, providing data for statistical

Cont'd on page 3

analysis as well as demonstrating a conservation measure," notes Horvey. The projects involved a wide range of issues including reduced tillage, fallow management, annual legumes as alternative crops, dryland salinity control, reclamation of eroded crop land and herbicides as alternatives to tillage operations.

Twenty-four smaller, seasonal demonstrations were conducted on such concerns as stubble management, dryland salinity control, shelterbelts, reduced tillage, legume incorporation and chemfallow.

Awareness and technology transfer activities such as tours, field days, publications, radio advertisements, workshops, seminars, displays and a conservation play were among the 43 projects funded by CARTT B.

CARTT B also funded three major applied research projects. A soil compaction study in southern Alberta was completed by the Agriculture Canada Lethbridge Research Station. At the opposite end of the province another Agriculture Canada Research Station, this time in Beaverlodge, looked at tillage and cropping systems for conservation and sustained crop production in the Peace River region. The University of Alberta and the Agriculture Canada Experimental Farm in Vegreville co-operated on a biological nitrogen fixation by annual legumes and their influence on subsequent crops in conventional and zero till systems project.

As well, the results from a systems evaluation project are briefly outlined in the report. This project was another major CARTT B activity. It involved the collection of agronomic and economic data from over 50 farm managers.

"The database we have built can provide information on a wide range of climatic zones, soil types and individual farming systems from across Alberta," notes Horvey.

Copies of "CARTT Summary of Project Reports, 1987 to 1993" are available at Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices and from the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Russel Horvey
422-4385

All round commitment, enthusiasm advances ag institute

For the first time in its four-year history the Summer Agricultural Education Institute was 30 for 30—30 teacher-participants and 30 graduates.

"There weren't any kidney stones or other events that prevented a full slate of participants or graduates," says Betty Gabert, an institute founder and organizer.

"But, that's not our only measure of success," she adds, "We can see success in the partnerships, the organization, the quality of participants and their attitudes, and the enthusiasm and commitment from sponsors, host farm families and the industry in general for agricultural education."

The institute was shortened from 11 to eight days in 1993. "It was more efficient and fast-paced, but it also showed the experience of the organizers at Olds College. This was their second time hosting in three years," notes Gabert who is also agricultural awareness co-orindator with Alberta Agriculture.

A full-credit university course, the ultimate goal of the institute program is to encourage teachers to incorporate agriculture in their classrooms. Institute graduates are encouraged to become "agricultural ambassadors" at their schools. Some graduates have gone on to win national and provincial awards for their work.

"There's no doubt that this year's teacher-participants will fulfil that objective," says Gabert. "The quality of the 1993 participants' attitudes was great. They made the supreme effort in a very tight and into-the-night schedule, as well as coming up with very innovative ideas for effective classroom lessons.

"One of the participants is a producer herself and remarked that the institute broadened her own perspective of the industry."

Gabert says co-operation and support of the agriculture and food industry has continued to build. "First, the partnership of the four main sponsors—UFA, the University of Lethbridge, Alberta Agriculture and the host college—has really matured. Plus, there has been enthusiasm from new and continuing sponsors for meals and entertainment. All have made a tremendous contribution to the overall quality of the institute."

As well, she adds, host farm families have gone beyond the hospitality and knowledge they share to include innovations they have made in their own operations. For example, one farmer showed machinery he'd designed, giving an institute participant the link between agriculture and a science classroom.

Gabert also notes support from the many agribusinesses that were toured. "What we see from the industry beyond the farm gate, from seed cleaning plants to breeding services and from brewing company to woollen mill, is that they too see the merit of agricultural awareness and education and the value of being part of the institute. That's why 40 displayers were at a mini-Expo for 30 teachers."

She also had praise for the many Alberta Agriculture staff who have been resource people at the institutes.

The 1994 institute will be held at Fairview College. "Fairview College had a strong presence at the mini-Expo and we certainly look forward to showcasing northern Alberta's agriculture industry," Gabert says.

For more information on the Summer Agricultural Education Institute, the Agricultural Ambassador Program or the Agriculture in the Classroom Program, contact Gabert in Edmonton at 427-2403.

Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

Record participation at provincial 4-H heifer show

A record 167 4-H members took part at the 17th annual provincial 4-H beef heifer show and judging contest.

"We had representatives from 56 clubs, nearly a third of all the beef clubs in the province," notes Henry Wiegman, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H livestock specialist.

"The number of 4-Hers coming to the provincial show has been growing. It shows not only the enthusiasm of the 4-H members, but also the interest and knowledge of our members in the business of beef," he adds. "While rain plagued the show for the second straight year, it didn't dampen the energy and excitement of the 4-Hers."

For one first-time participant, the show was especially rewarding. Patricia Kozack, 13, of the Camrose Beef Club claimed a number of awards. To begin, she won reserve supreme championship in the junior freshman class. Freshman classes are for first-time participants at the provincial show. The class is based on both a 4-H member's showmanship abilities as well as the animal's conformation.

The Maine Anjou yearling she used in the freshman class was also judged as the grand champion entry in the other purebreds championship class. Then, with a two-year Simmental cow, Kozack claimed the Simmental championship and went on to capture the supreme show championship.

As well, Kozack teamed with a fellow Camrose club member, Tammy Young to win the senior team grooming award. Young, 17, also won the senior showmanship class.

Home town participants from the Bashaw Beef Club also found themselves in the winners' circle during the two-day show. Angela Northery, 12, and Shannon Northery, 14, won both individual and team awards. Angela won the junior freshman class with her Angus yearling and was also first in junior showmanship. She teamed with her sister Shannon to claim intermediate team judging and second in team grooming. Shannon was second in her showmanship class (intermediate) and showed the champion Angus, a two-year old cow.

"One of the great things about this show is that members don't have to bring livestock. They can participate in the showmanship, grooming and judging classes without bringing their own animal," notes Wiegman.

Judging classes include team, show ring, individual and reasons. Junior team winners from the Brooks area clubs were Lee Beasley of the John Ware Club and Ryan Culligan of the Dusty Plains Multi Club. Culligan was also the top junior individual judge.

Senior team judging champions Curtis Werenka and Glen Dodgson of the Sangudo club were second and third respectively in the individual competition. They were also third in the show ring competition.

The top show ring pair were Denis Kotowich and Kyla Makowecki of the St. Paul Multi Club. They were also third in senior team grooming. "This is exactly reversed from their placings in these classes at the 1992 show," notes Wiegman. They were also third in senior team judging.

Tracy Gardner of Eagle Multi topped both individual reasons and the intermediate class as well as claiming the overall individual judge title. John Beasley of the John Ware Club was tops in senior individual reasons.

In team grooming, Edgerton Club members topped the junior and intermediate classes. The junior team was Neil Pugh and Kristi Trefiak. Kurt Trefiak and Darcy Clark were the intermediate winners. Kurt Trefiak also showed the supreme Hereford champion, a three-year-old cow.

Other show winners included: Carrie Cholack, Lamont, first in intermediate showmanship; Jennifer Kendall, Battle River Beef Club, reserve supreme show grand champion and supreme Charolais champ with a two-year-old Charolais cow; Victoria Belanger, Edgerton, crossbred supreme champion with a three-year-old Limo/Char cross; Colin McNiven, Dusty Plains Multi, reserve crossbred grand champion with a Maine Anjou/Angus cross; Bernadette McDonald, Duffield Beef and Swine Club, Limousin champion with a two-year-old cow; and, Shelley Rattray, County Livestock Judging Club (Byemoor), senior freshman champion with her Charolais yearling.

For the second straight year the club herdmanship trophy went to the Pincher Creek Foothills Club. Runner-up again was the St. Paul Multi Club that had won the previous four competitions between 1988 and 1991.

The Bashaw and District Agricultural Society hosts the provincial competition and was a major co-sponsor with Alberta Treasury Branches.

Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2451

4-H daring in Saskatchewan

Two Alberta 4-H delegates are daring themselves at a camp in Saskatchewan.

The challenges aren't of circus or rock climbing daring, but are geared to more personal feats at the "I dare you" camp held at Camp Rayner.

"The camp is designed for senior 4-H members who want to learn about leadership and presentation skills," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

"Camp delegates are involved in seminars, listen to guest speakers and participate in group activities dealing with current issues," she adds. The camp is organized by the Saskatchewan 4-H program.

The Alberta delegates are Joey Armstrong of Brooks and Candice Hrudey of Andrew. They went to Camp Rayner on July 29 and will return to Alberta later this week (August 4).

Both Armstrong and Hrudey were chosen to go to the camp at the annual provincial 4-H selections program in the early spring.

Cont'd on page 5

Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

Their trips were sponsored by two different organizations. Armstrong's sponsor is the youth speech and debate committee of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association. Its Edmonton counterpart, Edmonton Northlands sponsored Hrudey's trip.

Contact: *Marguerite Stark*
948-8510
Candice Hrudey
365-2426
Joe Armstrong
378-4777

California here they come

Two Albertans will be all-stars in California, but it doesn't involve hockey or Hollywood.

The two are both 4-H members who were chosen to take part in a seven-day exchange to California. The trip involves time with a host family as well as attending a "4-H all-star conference".

Janice Feenstra of Vermilion and Chad Ramsay of Bluffton will be honored at a send-off banquet tonight (August 2) in Calgary. The banquet is sponsored by the exchange sponsor, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Feenstra and Ramsay will be met by their host families when they arrive in California tomorrow (August 3). On August 6 and 7 they'll attend the all-star conference at the University of California in Davis.

"The conference's goals are to involve youth in addressing current issues, enhance feelings of self-worth and improve leadership skills plus a number of the other activities," notes Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

After the conference the two Albertans will round out their stay in California with their host families. They return to Alberta on August 10.

Feenstra, a recent grade 12 graduate, plans to attend the University of Lethbridge in the fall. Her intended major is education. She has been a Vermilion Golden Threads 4-H Club member for eight years. She completed sewing, crafts, junior leader and self-determined projects.

Ramsay also finished high school this year and plans to attend Red Deer College to begin study in genetics. Also an eight-year 4-H club member, Ramsay completed beef and junior leader projects with the Bluffton West 4-H Beef Club.

Contact: *Marguerite Stark*
948-8510
Chad Ramsay
843-3747
Janice Feenstra
853-2027

Agri-News briefs

Western Nutrition Conference Sept. 16-17

The 14th annual Western Nutrition Conference runs September 16 and 17 at the Marlborough Inn in Calgary. The conference is designed for feed industry personnel, nutritionists, extension workers, researchers, instructors, graduate students and anyone interested in livestock production and nutrition. Sessions will deal with topics related to swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, turkeys, horses and chickens. On September 15 an update on daily cattle, pork industry, beef cattle and poultry will be held in conjunction with the conference. The conference's co-operating agencies are the Canadian Feed Industry Association (Alberta division), Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, and the University of Alberta. Registration can be by mail or by FAXing (492-1216) or telephoning (492-3029) the University of Alberta's faculty of extension. For more information, contact Sheila at 492-3029.

Environmental legislation publications available

Publications are now available to assist Albertans in understanding the province's new environmental legislation. The publications are: "A guide to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act"; "Albertans respond to the proposed environmental regulations: A summary of public comments"; and, fact sheets on the new regulations. These publications are available by calling Alberta Environmental Protection toll-free at 1-800-661-5586. The new act and regulations come into effect on September 1, 1993. Copies of the act and regulations can be purchased through the Queen's Printer Bookstore. They are located in Calgary at Main Floor, McDougall Centre, 455-6th St. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4E8. The telephone number is 297-6251. The Edmonton location is 11510 Kingsway Avenue, T5G 2Y5. The telephone number is 427-4952.

Tending dog herding workshop in early September

A Beiseker area ranch is hosting a tending dog herding workshop September 3 through 5. It will be followed on September 6 with trial demonstrations. Both are led by Lynette Milleville, a shepherd from Portland, Connecticut. This is the first workshop in Canada for this type of herding work. Long used in Europe, but new to North America, the herding dog is different from a driving or gathering dog. Milleville will discuss the history of this type of stock work, obedience, moving stock, penning, containment, strip grazing, training methods and road work. This workshop will be of interest to anyone wanting to trial dogs in the tending style. For more information, contact Patricia Scarr, Box 88, Beiseker, Alberta, T0N 0G0 or call 935-4282.

1993 SeCan Alberta tours continue

SeCan tours in the province began in mid-July and will continue through mid-August. Upcoming tours are in the Nobleford (August 3), Trochu (August 4), Lacombe (August 6), Killam and Penhold (August 11) and Ponoka (August 12) areas. Wheat, barley, oats, peas, and canola trial plots will be toured. For specific time and location information contact: Tom Imeson, Nobleford, 824-3548; Sulo Luoma, Trochu, 422-2365; Grant Oatway, Lacombe, 784-3418; Darrell Holmstrum, Killam, 385-3574; David Kaun, Penhold, 886-4562; and, Blake Buss, Ponoka at 372-2222. For more general information, contact Joel Gingrich at 346-9200 in Red Deer.

Provincial shows at Mountain View County Fair Aug. 5-7

The Alberta provincial 4-H draft horse achievement day and provincial Percheron heavy horse show are two of the many events at the 1993 Mountain View County Fair in Olds August 5 through 7. The fair parade on August 5 will be marshalled by Grant McEwe , conservationist, author and former Lieutenant Governor. A new grandstand will be officially opened on August 7. On hand will be Ken Kowalski, deputy premier and minister responsible for lotteries. Ceremonies will be followed by a concert with Lisa Brokop and Gary Fjellgaard. The fair is celebrating its 93rd year by having a theme of "The place to be in 93". For more information, contact Ernie Bird at the Olds Agricultural Society office at 556-3770.

Growing money in the 90s at Camrose Ex

A "growing money in the '90s" tour and program will be offered August 13 and 14 during the Camrose Regional Exhibition. The program is presented by Alberta Agriculture and the Battle River Research Group. Participants have their choice of three different tours, a variety of sessions along with barbecue and breakfast. In total there are six different registration options including one for a farm family unit. Topics covered include land money and beef, taking advantage of beef production, taking advantage of markets and resource conflicts in the '90s. Tour A visits the Prestage pasture project. One objective of the project is to show beef and forage can produce as many dollars per acre under similar conditions as a grain rotation. Tour B includes a dried flower operation and a horse/PMU operation. Tour C includes a Prairie Care backflood site, native prairie, waste disposal and a forage site. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Camrose at 679-1210, Wetaskiwin at 361-1240, Stettler at 742-7500, Sedgewick at 384-3737 or Ryley at 663-3555.

LARA field day August 5

The Lakeland Agriculture Research Association (LARA) will hold a field day on the afternoon of August 5. It begins at 1 p.m. at LARA's research farm near Fort Kent. The research farm is 3/4 of mile west of Fort Kent just off Highway 28. Variety, tillage and innovative crop plots will be on display. Conservation tillage equipment will be demonstrated. For more information, contact Jay Byer, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Bonnyville, at 826-3388.

Coming agricultural events notice

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **September, later in 1993 or in 1994**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 26, 1993 to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403)427-2861

*("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**. The next list will be **September 6, 1993**)*

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

August 9, 1993

U.S. flooding major market factor

Crop markets have risen with widespread rain and flooding in the U.S. Midwest, but with the complete extent of its agricultural damage still uncertain no one is exactly sure where markets are going say two Alberta Agriculture market analysts.

"The really volatile trading has been in canola and soybeans," notes Larry Ruud. "While the flooding has been the primary driving force in price strength, no one has a good handle on the degree of damage, so uncertainty has kept a premium on soybeans and consequently canola prices."

Some of the uncertainty should end later this week. August 11 is the date for next United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) crop report. "The USDA lowered its soybean production estimate by three per cent in July, but that report wasn't based on survey data. This month's report should be based on survey information, so should shed more light on the extent of the damage from the excessive moisture," says Ruud.

Still, Ruud isn't predicting canola prices to move much beyond $350 per tonne. "In the drought years of 1984 and 1988, canola soared over $400 per tonne. That would mean soybean futures hitting $9/bu. and stock use levels for 1993/94 would also have to be lowered to 10 per cent or below," he adds.

"One thing that is certain is that millions of acres of crops have been destroyed and damaged," says Al Dooley. "Once the rains stop, markets may fall from recent highs. However, one thing is certain, some of the soybean damage is irreversible. These losses will support the pea market in 1993-94."

Dooley says that's the positive factor in Canadian pea markets. There are at least two negative factors—increased pea acreages with anticipated near record production in Canada and an increased European pea crop.

"Cool weather in western Canada has delayed crop development, so an early frost is possible. That could mean a big impact on yields, quality and prices," Dooley adds.

The flooding and excessive moisture conditions have also led to concerns about quality and production losses for winter wheat and feedgrains. "While the flooding isn't in main wheat growing areas, the continual rainfall throughout the Midwest has lowered protein levels," notes Ruud.

As a result, premiums on higher protein wheat increased sharply during July. For 13 per cent and higher protein wheat, the premium increased 40 to 50 cents per bushel during the month. "This likely won't be maintained once the spring wheat crop starts being harvested," he adds.

In feedgrain markets, U.S. corn futures didn't rise as dramatically as soybeans and canola. Ruud gives two reasons for more subdued increases. One is the large corn stock carryover. He estimates that carryover will weigh on the market through at least the first half of the 1993/94 crop year. As well, there's potential for more wheat grading feed in the U.S. because of the extreme rainfall.

Contact:	*Larry Ruud*	*Al Dooley*
	427-5386	*427-5387*

CANADIANA

AUG 24 1993

This Week

U.S. flooding major market factor 1

Pasture leasing survey finds broad range 2

Cows, fish and co-existence 2

Olde tyme sheep faire returns to Lacombe 3

4-H dairy show has multiple winners 3

Blue Lake route to leadership 4

Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Pasture leasing survey finds broad range

The initial 1993 grazing survey results show a wide range of rates based on local conditions says an Alberta Agriculture farm management economist.

"Grazing rates on private grass range from seven dollars to $25 per cow/calf pair or animal unit month (AUM)," says Alex Ostapiuk of the farm business management branch in Olds. "The most common rates are between $10 and $15 per pair per month."

Survey rates reflect local conditions including cattle numbers, grass availability, grass quality and water availability. The survey was conducted by Alberta Agriculture's economic services division. Rates are prices before GST.

In the Red Deer region and north, private grazing lease rates are more commonly in that $10 to $15 range he adds. South of Red Deer, the most common rates are between $14 and $15 per cow/calf pair per month.

"There is considerable variability throughout the province when private agreements aren't based on an AUM," he notes. Two of the commonly used pricing alternatives to AUM are on a per acre basis or on a lump sum dollar amount for a given acreage of pasture.

On the other hand, an animal unit is equal to a mature cow with or without an unweaned calf at her side. A weaned calf is one-half an animal unit and a heifer/steer is two-thirds of an animal unit. Five deer equal one AUM.

In 49 per cent of the private agreements surveyed, the renter is totally responsible for fence maintenance cost. In another 45 per cent, the landlord is completely responsible for fence maintenance.

The remaining six per cent of agreements share fencing costs between property owner and renter. "This includes agreements where the tenant supplies the labor and the landlord supplies the materials, or where they share fencing costs equally," notes Ostapiuk.

This year, 30 per cent of private pasture leases surveyed were written and the remaining 70 per cent were verbal. Nearly all government-type leases, 85 per cent, are in written form.

Ostapiuk also notes provincial grazing reserve rates didn't change from 1992 levels. "This was due to provincial grazing reserve costs being covered by revenues from farmer user-fees and supplemented by oil exploration revenue that started in 1991," he says.

Rates on irrigated grazing reserves in the Lethbridge and Medicine Hat region are $13.45 to $14.05 per AUM. The region's non-irrigated reserves are at $10.90 per AUM. West central, Edmonton and St. Paul grazing reserve rates are $9.35 per AUM. Northern rates are lower still. The Grande Prairie and Peace River region grazing reserve rate is $8.25 per AUM.

For more information, contact Ostapiuk at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4235.

Contact: *Alex Ostapiuk*
556-4235

Cows, fish and co-existence

Improved pasture and maintained streams can go hand in hand, and a day-long workshop on August 27 will tell producers how to achieve that goal.

The "Cow and fish, conflict or co-operation" workshop will be held at the Crowsnest Centre in Blairmore and features a number of specialists.

"Participants will hear practical suggestions about how to make their stream bottom land more productive for cattle and provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife," says Peggy Strankman of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. "Our featured guest speaker, Dr. Bill Platts has years of practical experience in managing for both cattle and trout."

A fisheries consultant from Idaho, Platts has worked extensively in the U.S. to develop workable range management plans for multiple use of riparian areas. He'll discuss what has worked for U.S. ranchers, where beavers fit in the management plan, how to tell when a stream is in trouble and how to fix it, and the economics.

The workshop is one part of a unique project studying the relationship between range management and riparian habitat in Alberta. Healthy riparian areas provide: high quality water for fish and cattle while reducing flood risk; habitat for fish and wildlife; shade and forage for livestock; and, cover for migrating waterfowl.

"Livestock grazing and fish habitat has been a source of considerable strife and conflict in the U.S.," notes Barry Adams, an Alberta Agriculture range management specialist. "This project will give us a unique opportunity to take a positive, proactive approach to the issue. We are encouraging as many producers as possible to attend as Dr. Platts has a great deal of practical experience with 'on-ranch' planning."

Adams will also be making a presentation at the workshop. He will be joined by Lorne Fitch of the provincial fish and wildlife service to discuss managing rangelands and stream banks. They'll discuss range management principles, how riparian areas benefit the producer, what grazing does for grass and why streams do what they do.

The workshop will kick-off with a discussion of why producers should care if there are fish in the creek. Chris Mills of the Alberta Cattle Commission and Kevin Van Tighem, past president of the Alberta Wilderness Association, will talk about legislation, regulation, public perceptions and the U.S. situation.

The workshop will be wrapped-up by Don Pike of Trout Unlimited Canada. Trout Unlimited is one of the co-operating sponsors in the riparian habitat management project. Other partners are the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Agriculture's public lands

Cont'd on page 3

management, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Alberta Environmental Protection's fish and wildlife service.

The "cows and fish" workshop is supported by funding from the Canada Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

For more information, contact Strankman in Calgary at 275-8558, Adams in Lethbridge at 381-5486, Fitch in Lethbridge at 381-5281, or Garry Szabo with Trout Unlimited Canada in Calgary at 221-8360.

Contact: Barry Adams 381-5486
Peggy Strankman 275-8558

Olde tyme sheep faire returns to Lacombe

Lambs and much more of the sheep industry will be in Lacombe September 18 and 19 for "Lambs in Lacombe", an "olde tyme sheep faire".

"The events are many and varied. There's something for people involved in the industry as well as for anyone who'd like to learn more or just browse through exhibits and demonstrations for a view, feel or taste of lamb," says Wray Whitmore, provincial sheep specialist.

A lean lamb field day is one of the first events. It starts at 10 a.m. on September 18. It will be held at the Agriculture Canada Lacombe Research Station, just next door to the site of the main events at the Central Alberta Agricultural Society grounds. A $10 fee includes a lamb lunch. 4-H members can attend free of charge.

A junior shepherd competition is also on Saturday. The competition is open to contestants from the ages of eight through 18. Classes include lamb trimming, ewe lamb, exhibitor's flock, market lamb judging, mature ewe, showmanship, fashion lead, novelty lead, questionnaire and future shepherd. The entry deadline is August 30. For more information, contact Norine Whiting in Sherwood Park at 464-2089.

All weekend long there will be a number of exhibits and demonstrations. These include a craft and trade fair, fleece competition, bench show, kids' barn, sheep to shawl demonstrations and sheep dog trials. Other demonstrations include breed displays, handling, shearing, trimming and information on nutrition and management.

"There will also be plenty of opportunities to taste Alberta lamb," notes Whitmore. "Lamb will be barbecued on Saturday evening, plus there'll be an assortment of lamb and lamb snacks available."

Viewing lambs will also be featured in a photo contest. The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association sponsors the contest. There are six categories. They are: sheep landscape, sheep and/or lambs, sheep-related activities, sheep and people, Olde Tyme Sheep Faire/Lambs in Lacombe, and purebred sheep.

"The final category has a $150 first prize. In the other categories, first prize nets $20, plus $75 for the best overall photo. That's a pretty good return on a one dollar entry fee," says Whitmore.

The entry deadline for the photo contest is also August 30. For more information, contact Jeri McNeil in Bowden at 224-3753. The bench show has the same entry deadline. Contact Betty Matejka in Ponoka at 783-2167 for more information.

Contact: Wray Whitmore 427-5083
Edith Williams 784-3511

4-H dairy show has multiple winners

With three of six class champions in the ring, Maureen Trautman didn't have enough hands for all the halters of her livestock in the supreme championship class at the recent provincial 4-H dairy show and team judging contest.

Eventually, the Bashaw Club member's calf champion was named the reserve supreme champion behind Linsey Chalack's intermediate calf. Trautman's other class champions were junior yearling and yearling. Other class winners were Krista Harink of the Lacombe Club for winter yearling and Derek Van Sickle of the Mountain View Club for summer yearling.

These 4-H members were just four of the 55 competitors at the 47th annual show held recently in Red Deer. "We had tremendous participation," notes Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. "Nine out of 10 clubs were represented, and the 55 members at the show totals nearly one-half of all dairy club members in the province."

Chalack also distinguished herself in the other element of the event, winning top spots in judging and showmanship. She earned first place honors as top overall individual, top overall in reasons and top intermediate judging reasons. She was also a member of the top overall team with fellow Mountain View Club members Julene Copithorne and Dereck Van Sickle.

Other judging contest winners were: Jason Lausen of Mountain View as top junior; Laura Jeffery of the CDC (Crossfield, Didsbury and Carstairs area) Club as top senior; and, Jeffery and Scott Lausen of the Mountain View Club as the top show ring team.

While Chalack was first in the intermediate showmanship class, the eventual overall champion showman was Len Congdon of the Bashaw Club. Congdon earlier won the senior class. The junior class winner was Krista Harink of the Lacombe Club.

The clipping competition was dominated by the Mountain View Club. Top intermediate clipper Derek Van Sickle, another multiple award winner, moved on to capture the overall individual title. Junior winner was Gordie Copithorne, with Scott Lausen the senior clipping winner.

Club awards went different directions from last year. The Bashaw Club won the club herd class while the Twilite Club, from the Cherhill area, regained the club herdsmanship award.

Contact: Henry Wiegman, 422-4444

Blue Lake route to leadership

Two trips to a lake near Hinton is on the leadership course for three young Alberta 4-H members and one 4-H leader.

The delegates—Jamie Belanger of Morinville, Christy Meese of Rocky Mountain House, Curtis Werenka of Sangudo, and leader Marianne Miller of Markerville—will attend a two-part youth leadership seminar at Blue Lake. The first session runs this week (August 8 through 13). The second part runs this fall from October 7 through 10.

"Delegates who attend the seminar come from many different youth organizations," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

The seminar's aim, she adds, is to improve its participants' group, planning, communication and personal skills in order to improve leadership skills.

They also are involved in fun and recreational activities. All participants are involved in a wide variety of outdoor activities ranging from rock climbing and orienteering, to navigating and kayaking.

The 4-Hers were chosen to attend the seminar at the annual provincial 4-H selections program earlier this year. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement as well as interpersonal skills. Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development sponsors the trip for the 4-Hers.

Contact:	*Marguerite Stark* *948-8510*	*Jamie Belanger* *459-3248*
	Christy Meese *845-4326*	*Curtis Werenka* *785-2176*
	Marianne Miller *728-3455*	

Agri-News briefs

Alberta Outstanding Young Farmer named

An Innisfail farm couple are the Alberta region's Outstanding Young Farmers and will move on to the national program later this year. Rod and Shelley Bradshaw are involved in two different farming operations, one in the more traditional areas of cattle and crops, and another in raising carrots and parsnips. The other participants in the 1993 program during Westerner Days in Red Deer were Robert and Wendy Hennig of Andrew, Bernie and Donna Kotelko of Vegreville and Jorgen and Susan Lindved-Jensen of Rosemary. Program sponsors were Calgary East Jaycees, Esso Canada and the Alberta Food Processors Association. For more information on the program, contact Norman Storch in Hanna at 854-2593.

Check your pulse August 19

Producers are invited to "check their pulse" at a pulse crop harvest management and technology field day August 19 at Lakeland College in Vermilion. The day-long field day includes lectures, demonstrations, trade show and equipment displays to bring farmers up-to-date information on pulse harvesting equipment and technology. The field day starts with registration at 9 a.m. The morning includes lectures and a producer panel. Field demonstrations and outdoor displays start at 1:30 and run through 4 p.m. The field day is sponsored by the Vermilion Agricultural Society, the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, the County of Vermilion River Agricultural Service Board, the Northeast Conservation Connection, Lakeland College and Alberta Agriculture. For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district office in Vermilion at 853-8101.

Changes made to IVMAA guide

The Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta (IVMAA) has revised a table that appears in its "Industry Standards and Good Practices for Vegetation Management" guide. The revisions were made to more accurately define who is a landowner or occupant of public lands and who is responsible for notifying the adjacent landowners and occupants about herbicide spraying on public lands. Specifically in the guide, the changes were made to Table 2 that describes public involvement options for various worksites. Landowner/occupant contact is now defined as "on private and public land, consent must be given by the landowner and/or occupant of any land before vegetation management work can be performed (see Surface Rights Act on page 2.11 of supporting legislation). If activities are solely confined to private property, it is considered the landowner's/occupant's responsibility to notify adjacent landowners/occupants of herbicide spraying. Roadways (public land) are under provincial or municipal jurisdiction. The jurisdictional body is recognized as the owner." For more information, contact the IVMAA in Calgary at Box 42114, Acadia Postal Outlet, or #415, 9737 Macleod Trail S.W., Calgary, T2J 7A6.

Monsanto Agribusiness scholarship deadline August 15

The application deadline for Monsanto Agribusiness scholarships is August 15, 1993. The company offers 40 $1,000 scholarship to high school graduates from a family farm who have successfully enrolled at a Canadian university in first-year agriculture or management. Selection criteria include academic standards and demonstrated community leadership. Application forms and more information are available by calling (204)985-1000.

Three wetlands reports released

Three wetlands reports have been released by the Alberta Water Resources Commission. All three are related to the commission's work on a provincial wetland policy. The three reports are: "Wetland Management in the Settled Area of Alberta: An Interim Policy"; "Beyond Prairie Potholes: A Draft Policy for Management of Alberta's Peatlands and Non-settled Area Wetlands";, and, "Alberta's Peatlands and Non-settled Area Wetlands: A Background Report". Public workshops on the draft policy suggestions for peatland and other wetlands management in non-settled areas will be held in the fall. Following public and interdepartmental consultations, the revised policy recommendations will be combined with the interim policy for the settled area and presented for government approval as a comprehensive wetland policy for Alberta. For copies of these reports or to be notified about the workshop dates and locations, contact Dr. Alfred Birch, executive director, or John Lilley, research director, at the Alberta Water Resources Commission in Edmonton at 422-4232.

Oat producers looking for directors

The Oat Producer's Association of Alberta is looking for energetic individuals to serve as directors. Ideal candidates will be a farmer member of the association, have strong communication skills and a working knowledge of the oats industry. Directors play a leadership role in the oats industry and help direct the affairs of a growing association. For more information, contact Glen Binnington at 444-0066.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

August 16, 1993

CANADIANA
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Rain, weeds and using pre-harvest glyphosate

Good moisture across the province has brought second growth in crops as well as new flushes of weeds, so producers are thinking about pre-harvest glyphosate says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Bookings for commercial herbicide applicators for pre-harvest glyphosate—trade names Roundup, Laredo, Wrangler and Renegade—have been brisk so far," notes Mark Olson, regional crop production specialist in Fairview.

Glyphosate as a pre-harvest treatment is a good control for perennial weeds such as Canada thistle and quackgrass he adds. "However glyphosate, in the strictest sense, isn't a desiccant as many farmers have come to believe."

A desiccant is an agent that speeds up drying plant material by removing moisture. Desiccants such as diquat (trade name Reglone) disrupt cell growth by killing the plant immediately, just like frost. Glyphosate however, blocks protein synthesis of amino acids. This action is slower than traditional desiccants.

"In terms of reducing time to harvest, glyphosate will shorten the period compared to doing nothing, since green plants such as weeds and late tillers are killed," says Olson. "However, glyphosate won't reduce the amount of small and light kernels if the tillers have already headed."

When applied to peas, glyphosate can help obtain better quality by preventing earthtag he adds. Earthtag is an accumulation of dirt on the pea from the mixture of cell sap from actively growing weeds and dust caused by harvest operations. Earthtag can cause loss of grade, for example dropping from human consumption to feed grade. This is especially true of yellow peas that show dirt more readily.

"Farmers should be aware that glyphosate isn't registered on peas for seed, since there's evidence it affects germination the following year," he warns.

Recently, glyphosate was registered as a pre-harvest treatment on malt barley and seed grain (barley and wheat only). Olson recommends farmers consult with their local grain company because some maltsters won't accept grain that has had glyphosate as a pre-harvest treatment.

Pre-harvest applications of glyphosate should be when the percentage of seed moisture is less than 30 per cent (see chart for further guidelines). Olson adds it should be applied seven to 13 days before harvest to ensure the best weed control and maximize harvest management benefits. "Earlier application may reduce crop yield and or quality, and may lead to an excess of glyphosate residues in the crop," he says.

Glyphosate controls quackgrass, Canada thistle, perennial sow thistle and most annual weeds. For best weed control results, apply when quackgrass is actively growing and has at least four to five green leaves. Canada thistle and perennial sow thistle should also be actively growing and be at or beyond the bud stage.

For more information, contact your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office, regional crop production specialist, or your chemical company representative.

Contact: *Mark Olson*
835-2291

This Week

Rain, weeds and using pre-harvest glyphosate 1

July wet and cool 2

1993 farm income forecast 2

Contest winners, super safety heroes honored on August 25 3

Crops display open house Aug. 26-27 3

Conservation leadership encouraged at camp 4

Forage advisory committee established 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Guidelines for Timing of Pre-harvest Applications

Crop(s)	*Per cent Seed Moisture*	*Visual Symptoms*
Wheat & Barley	less than 30%	Hard dough stage—a thumb nail impression remains on the seed
Canola	less than 30%	Pods are yellow to green and most seeds are yellow to brown
Flax	less than 30%	Majority 75% to 80% of pods are brown
Lentils	less than 30%	Majority 75% to 80% of pods are brown
Peas	less than 30%	Majority 75% to 80% of pods are brown
Soybeans	less than 30%	Stems are green to brown in color and pod tissue is brown and dry in appearance (80 to 90% leaf drop)

July wet and cool

Cool and wet best describes Alberta weather during the month of July 1993 says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"The conditions were both good and bad news for the province's farmers," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch.

After a dry spring across the province, above-normal June and July rains greatly improved surface soil moisture conditions. "This moisture has provided immediate as well as long-term benefits," he notes. "However, the cool temperatures slowed crop growth and maturity."

Conditions were especially cold and wet in southern Alberta. Several good July showers provided the south with well above normal precipitation totals for the second month in a row.

"Farmers in central and Peace regions had a bit less moisture than in the south. Temperatures were also below normal, but again not as much as in southern Alberta," he adds.

In agricultural areas, July precipitation varied from 31.8 mm at Lloydminster—40 per cent of normal—to 171.2 mm at Pincher Creek—380 per cent of the July normal. Most of southern Alberta and the Peace region reported between 75 and 150 mm of precipitation ranging from above normal to quadruple the July normal. Central regions reported 70 to 120 mm, or about 40 to 140 per cent of the normal for the month of July.

The average monthly temperature for the province, based on data from 57 weather stations, was 2.6°C colder than the 1951-1980 normal of 16.8°C. "Below normal temperatures were recorded province-wide," Dzikowski says.

In agricultural areas, Empress recorded the warmest average temperature for the month at 16.5°C. That was about 3.2°C cooler than the average. High River recorded the coldest monthly average for July at 11.9°C, about 3.4°C lower than the average. Queenstown had the greatest temperature departure from the normal—4.7°C cooler than the July normal of 18°C.

For more information, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
422-4385

1993 farm income forecast released

Farm income projections for Alberta's agriculture industry in 1993 are the highest in almost 20 years.

While the realized net farm income for Canada is expected to remain at about the same level this year as in 1992, the realized net farm income in Alberta is expected to reach $1 billion. When adjusted for inflation, realized net income figures haven't been this high since 1974.

As well, total farm cash receipts from crops, livestock and program payments are expected to exceed $5 billion for the first time.

Farm cash receipts in Alberta's livestock sector are forecast to hit record levels of over $2.8 billion. Total livestock receipts will increase by 13 per cent for the second year in a row. While a strong slaughter cattle sector is mainly responsible for the increase, hog receipts are also forecast to increase by about eight per cent over 1992 levels.

"I am encouraged by the overall story told by these income figures," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister. "Although the crops sector is still experiencing difficulties due to international trade negotiations and last year's unseasonable weather, our efforts to diversify

Cont'd on page 3

Alberta's agriculture industry are now being rewarded as we see the livestock sector flourish.

"These figures are certainly consistent with Premier Ralph Klein's new economic strategy for the province, as well as the industry's vision that resulted from the Creating Tomorrow process," he adds.

Paszkowski also notes the Alberta government's participation in support programs such as the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) and crop insurance has provided much needed support to the crops sector. Such programs have helped offset the poor quality crop harvested in 1992. Overall, crop receipts in 1993 are expected to fall by just over three per cent from 1992 levels.

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben* *or Brian Hlus* *427-2137*	*C.D. Radke* *427-2145*

Contest winners, super safety heroes honored on August 25

August 25 will be super safety hero day across the province as 270 rural students and their super safety heroes are honored.

"Alberta is overflowing with safety heroes," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. "We know because more than 2,400 youngsters wrote and told us about them."

From those entries, 270 were chosen to receive prizes from the contest's co-sponsor John Deere Limited. Prize presentations will be made at 32 dealerships across the province on August 25. The young contest winners, their families and especially their super safety heroes are invited to the prize presentations.

"We're proud to be part of bringing the safety message to rural Alberta students and their families," says Bonnie Hayden, advertising manager for John Deere. "We're pleased with the awareness that's developed. We've seen it build with more and more entries received each year."

"This is the second year prizes have been presented through the dealerships. There are many more dealers involved this year, and like our winners, they are from every corner of the province. Plus, there's been increased enthusiasm and excitement for the contest and safety message," says Kyeremanteng.

The super safety hero campaign is the third spring campaign designed to make rural elementary school children and their families more safety conscious. The 1993 campaign was launched in Lethbridge in late April. More than 13,000 brochures were distributed by members of the Alberta Womens' Institutes to students across the province.

"Then we got an avalanche of mail describing those super safety heroes," notes Kyeremanteng. Students wrote about their parents, other relatives, teachers, friends, police officers, firemen and even imaginary super safety heroes. The "heroes" taught them about general safety as well as more specific farm safety areas such as machinery and animals.

The contest encouraged students to draw a picture of their super safety hero and then describe why that person was their super safety hero. One first prize winner wrote her father and grandfather were her super safety heroes because they put chemicals away and watched for kids behind the tractor and other machinery. Another named her teacher for teaching her how to cross the street safely.

First through third prize winners will receive various John Deere toy tractors as prizes. The fourth prize is a super safety hero T-shirt.

Award presentations will be at John Deere dealerships in Athabasca, Barrhead, Brooks, Burdett, Calgary, Camrose, Coronation, Drumheller, Edmonton, Falher, Foremost, Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Hanna, High River, Killam, Lethbridge, Manning, Medicine Hat, Olds, Ponoka, Provost, Red Der, Spirit River, Stettler, Taber, Trochu, Vegreville, Vermilion, Warburg, Westlock and Wetaskiwin. For more information on winners and dealerships involved in the award presentations, contact Jacqueline Galloway in Edmonton at 427-2186.

Contact:	*Solomon Kyeremanteng* *427-2186*	*Jacqueline Galloway* *427-2186*
	Bonnie Hayden *(416)945-7314*	

Crops display open house Aug. 26-27

From field crops to herbs and from vegetables to dried flowers, 170 crops grown in Alberta are on display at the annual Crops of Alberta open house in Edmonton August 26 and 27.

The annual one acre display, a joint project of Alberta Agriculture's soil and crop management branch and the University of Alberta's plant science department, is located just south of Alberta Agriculture's headquarters building in Edmonton. The J.G. O'Donoghue building's address is 7000-113 Street.

While the open house features special tours at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day, the display is open to the public throughout the growing season. "Each plot is identified with a sign explaining the crop, so you can go through the display any time," says Holly Steinley, the Crops of Alberta co-ordinator. She adds other tours can be arranged by contacting her at 427-7098.

"Home grounds pest management is highlighted in this year's display," she notes.

As well, adjacent to Crops of Alberta is a permanent composting display. Built by the City of Edmonton in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture, there are 11 different composting models. Signs explain the model, supplier and cost.

The Crops of Alberta display has been presented annually since 1985.

Contact:	*Holly Steinley* *427-7098*

Conservation leadership encouraged at camp

For the young 4-Hers who come to the annual 4-H Conservation Camp, the camp isn't just a learning opportunity but a fostering of conservation attitudes.

At the recent 28th annual camp at the Alberta 4-H Centre, 46 4-H members studied one of five conservation areas in-depth and got exposure to the other four. Conservation topic areas are water, soil, range, forestry, and fish and wildlife.

"The camp is really hands-on, not just time in a classroom setting, but going out on field trips to observe," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. "As well, they see environmental isses from many sides through a mock development hearing."

Group activities are led by specialists from the province's special areas, Alberta Environmental Protection, Olds College and the camp sponsors, Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities.

Conservation campers are also recognized for their conservation efforts after they attend the camp. The Grant MacEwan Conservation Award will be available in June 1994 to the conservation camper who best spreads the conservation message after attending the camp. The award has been presented since 1975.

While most delegates are from Alberta, this year two Manitobans joined the camp. "Out-of-province guests add a positive flavor to the program," says Wiegman.

Contact: *Henry Wiegman*
422-4444

Forage advisory committee established

The Alberta Forage Council has established a Forage Industry Advisory Committee to work closely with Alberta Agriculture on its forage initiative.

"Alberta Agriculture estimates the farm gate value of Alberta forages at $949 million dollars. This is only one indication of the importance of forages to the agriculture industry," says Don Sawyer, chair of the forage council. "Furthermore, the use of forages is in keeping with sustainable agriculture."

The first role of the new advisory committee is to review, list priorities and make recommendations on the forage needs document compiled by Alberta Agriculture. This comprehensive list of needs was developed through a series of brainstorming workshops and questionnaires with forage producers, extension workers and research staff from across Alberta.

The advisory committee will have other roles such as developing a provincial forage strategy. The committee will also give direction to Alberta Agriculture and provide input to other agencies. As well, it will provide input to federal and provincial programs related to forage work, including research, policy and extension activities.

The Forage Advisory Committee will report directly to the Alberta Forage Council, that will in turn work with Alberta Agriculture to follow up all recommendations.

Committee members were carefully chosen to represent a cross-section of the entire forage industry. Forage producers and agribusinesses are encouraged to present their views and ideas to the committee adds Sawyer.

The committee includes three members of the forage council—Sawyer of Condor (729-2191), Wyatt Swanson of Provost (753-6490) and Bob Binks of Grande Prairie (532-6220). There are also three representatives from Alberta Agriculture. They are Myron Bjorge of the Crop Development Centre in Lacombe (782-4641); Dale Engstrom of the cattle and sheep branch in Edmonton (427-5083); and, Harvey Yoder, Lac La Biche district agriculturist (623-5218).

Other committee members and the organizations they represent are: Gordon Bussey, Airdrie (948-5258), Canadian Seed Growers Association; Ken Richards, Lethbridge research station (327-4561), Agriculture Canada; Jane King, plant science department (492-4931), University of Alberta; Roger Vansevenandt, Morinville (961-3985), processing industry; Elgar Grinde, Holden (688-2123), Alberta Cattle Commission; and, Lloyd Rommens, Brooks (362-4958), Alberta Milk Producers.

Contact: *Don Swayer* *Laurel Aitken*
729-2191 *929-2019*

Myron Bjorge
782-4641

Agri-News briefs

Bee different, bee you at PDP camp

Seventy-five "bees" met at the Battle Lake 4-H Centre for the People Developing People (PDP) camp in late July. With a theme of "bee different, bee you", the 13 and 14-year-old 4-Hers worked to grow and develop as individuals through a variety of recreational and personal development activities. Small group sessions included topics such as co-operation, leisure wellness and decision making. Delegates also had the opportunity to participate in a unique session called "PDP at the polls", a simulated government election. Delegates are sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Husky Oil, Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada. For more information, contact Arron Madson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Going "fer" it at club week

Personal development was the focus for 120 4-H delegates from across the province as they met at Olds College for Club Week 1993 last month. This year's theme, "Go fer it", encouraged delegates to discover their personal strengths and potentials, while growing and developing as individuals. This was done through small group interaction while exploring issues such as family, peers, self-esteem, being Canadian and friendship. "This week is often a turning point for young 4-Hers," says Arron Madson, 4-H personal development specialist. "The small group setting always encourages the establishment of strong friendships among the delegates. Many last a lifetime." Senior 4-H members between the ages of 15 and 21 are selected by their club to attend Club Week. Members are allowed to attend only once, making the week a very special and memorable one. Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers, Agriculture Canada and Alberta Agriculture are Club Week sponsors. For more information, contact Arron Madson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

EAT Institute holds "From earth to our lives"

The EAT Institute is inviting the public to a participation day on August 22. The public participation day, "From earth to our lives", was planned to bring together some of the many partners of the EAT Institute. This includes: students who have attended the "sci-energizer" science day camps; representatives of the food industry; scientists involved in agriculture and earth sciences; corporate sponsors; and, rural and urban citizens. Events, hands-on activities, displays and food tasting are part of the special day. The Alberta Stock Dog obstacle trials are also scheduled. Activities run from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Institute is located at 105 street and 17 avenue SE Calgary (on Highway 1A to Chestermere Lake). For more information, call 272-4100.

Ag extension looks to the future

The Canadian Agricultural Extension Council (CAEC) met recently in Guelph to discuss the challenges of technology transfer in tight financial times. The main topic of discussion at the annual meeting was information technology. Among the technological innovations examined were "fax-on-demand", computerized bulletin board systems, electronic mail and teleconferencing. "With technology advancing at such a fast pace, we simply can't afford to re-invent the wheel every time we're faced with a problem," says Jack Haggert, council president. "We have to work together to develop and share information technology rather than sitting in our own little silos tinkering away at programs only to discover that somebody two provinces over developed exactly the same thing last year." The council is composed of extension directors from across Canada. The council first began meeting in 1946 and has met annually to deal with common issues and to share information and ideas about agricultural extension in Canada. The 1994 annual meeting will be in St. John's, Newfoundland. John Tackaberry, director of rural development for Alberta Agriculture, represented Alberta at the 1993 meeting. For more information, contact Tackaberry in Edmonton at 427-2409.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

SEP 3 1 1993

August 23, 1993

Map shows long-term moisture trends

By analyzing soil moisture data since 1988, two Alberta Agriculture specialists have put together a map marking soil moisture trends.

"We used the continuous records and a Graphics Information System to assess long-term trends in soil moisture and identify areas that are frequently dry," says Allan Howard, soil moisture specialist with the conservation and development branch.

The resulting map shows the frequency of dry springs where there is only low or very low stubble soil moisture. Low moisture means good surface moisture, but poor subsoil reserves and consequently not enough moisture to sustain growth past the seedling stage. Timely rainfall is needed for an average crop yield.

In the very low category, a fair to poor surface moisture means there's not enough moisture for crops to germinate. Rainfall is needed immediately to sustain any seedling growth.

"There are three areas where dry conditions, the low or very low stubble soil moisture, have occurred nearly every year since 1988," notes Howard. The largest area is in south central Alberta. It extends from Strathmore east to nearly the Saskatchewan border, south as far as Lethbridge and as far north as Coronation. The two other areas are further north. One is located south of Lac La Biche. The other is a strip from Vilna running southeast to Marwayne. (See attached map.)

Dry springs happen about 50 per cent of the time in the northeast, southeast and southern Peace regions of the province. "Several areas within central Alberta were also dry at least 50 per cent of the time," he adds.

Three areas—one northeast of Edmonton, another northwest of Calgary and an area from High Level through Fort Vermilion in the northern Peace region—haven't had a dry spring since 1988.

Howard also notes that although all southern Alberta is generally dry in the fall, "high winter and spring precipitation in the foothills and Milk River Ridge have made dry springs less frequent in the southwest."

The map also reflects improved moisture conditions along the eastern edge of the province. "Spring storms in 1990 and 1991 helped boost soil moisture in this area," says Howard.

Annual soil moisture maps use high, medium, low and very low soil moisture categories. Maps are based on soil sampling on stubble fields across the province during the month of April.

For more information, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861 or John Bell in Edmonton at 422-6530.

Contact:	*Allan Howard*	*John Bell*
	381-5861	*422-6530*

This Week

Map shows long-term moisture trends 1

Weatheradio beneficial for farm forecasts 3

Check rams for breeding soundness 4

Potato, onion and corn harvesting tips 4

How-to harvest "different" garden produce 5

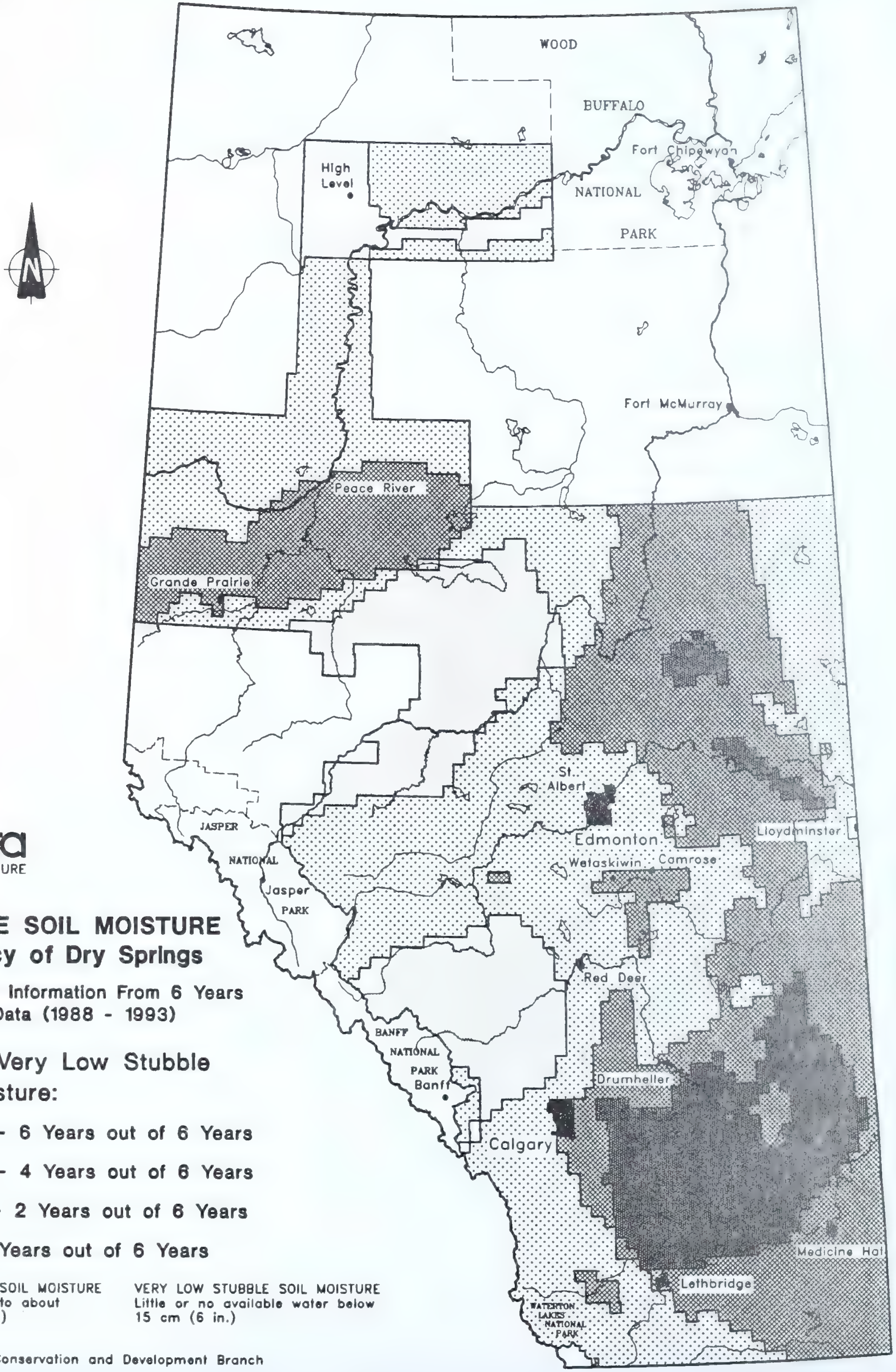
Harvesting apples to store 5

Farmers eligible for employer U.I. holiday in '93 6

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters


WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
Fort Chipewyan
High Level
N
Fort McMurray
Peace River
Grande Prairie
St. Albert
Edmonton
Lloydminster
Wetaskiwin
Camrose
JASPER
NATIONAL
Jasper
PARK
Red Deer
BANFF
NATIONAL
PARK
Banff
Drumheller
Calgary
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK

Alberta AGRICULTURE

STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
Frequency of Dry Springs

Analysis of Information From 6 Years of Spring Data (1988 - 1993)

Low or Very Low Stubble Soil Moisture:

- ■ 5 - 6 Years out of 6 Years
- ▩ 3 - 4 Years out of 6 Years
- ░ 1 - 2 Years out of 6 Years
- □ 0 Years out of 6 Years

LOW STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE	VERY LOW STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
Subsoil moist to about 45 cm (18 in.)	Little or no available water below 15 cm (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

Weatheradio beneficial for farm forecasts

Weatheradio Canada has become a routine part of Nestor and Lorraine Kubersky's day at their Wostock area farm northeast of Edmonton.

Since tuning in to the continuous, up-to-date weather forecast information two years ago, the Kuberskys have come to depend on the service. "We listen every few hours to find out if the forecast is changing," says Lorraine.

Nestor Kubersky says the weather information has been critical to his mixed farming operation during haying, swathing and combining, especially to see if rain or snow is expected. As well, he says he values the service's extended forecast. "I also check to see if temperatures are going to get colder so we can make any changes for our cattle," he adds.

Weatheradio Canada is available near six Alberta communities—Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. "Weatheradio Canada can be heard within about 50 to 60 km from the broadcast site. Mr. Kubersky is at the outer edge of that range between his home and Edmonton," notes Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist. (See attached map.)

A dedicated VHF-FM broadcast system, it's transmitted on a frequency of 162.4, 162.475 or 162.55 megahertz (MHz) by Environment Canada. The service has both constantly updated weather information and weather warnings.

Weatheradio does require a special receiver. They cost around $60. A receiver with a warning alert feature, battery back-up power source and switch rather than dial for selecting broadcast frequency are also recommended.

"Before buying a receiver, you should also check to see if you can pick up the Weatheradio signal in your location," advises Dzikowski. "Since transmissions operate by line of sight, reception may be poor in low-lying areas such as river valleys."

Producers outside the Weatheradio Canada areas, can telephone one of seven regional farm weather lines adds Dzikowski.

In its ninth season of operation, the Alberta Farm Weather Line is a co-operative service provided by Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service. The regional lines bring farmers up-to-date agricultural weather forecasts throughout the year.

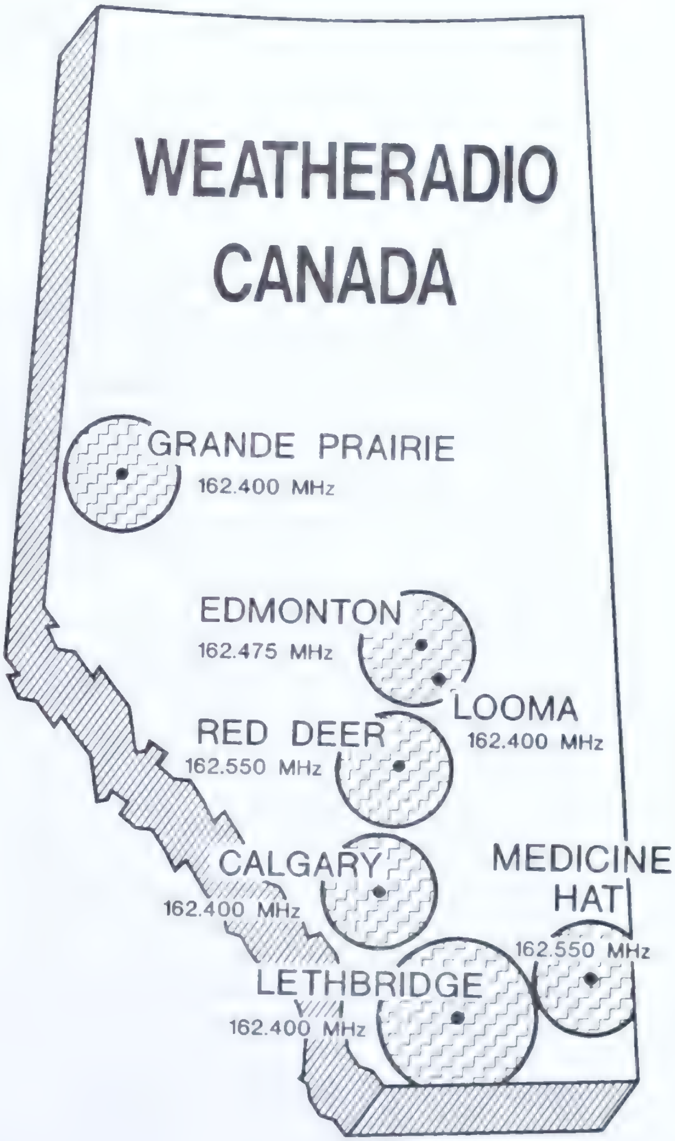
Over 230,000 calls have already been made to the service during the first seven months of 1993 he notes.

Forecasts specific to each region are updated four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Farmers can call the weather line in their region. Long distance charges do apply.

The telephone numbers are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Red Deer, 342-7322; Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge, 328-RAIN (7246); Medicine Hat, 526-6224; and, Coronation, 57-TEMPS (578-3677). (See attached map)

For more information about the Alberta Farm Weather Line or Weatheradio Canada, contact Dzikowski at the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: *Peter Dzikowski*
422-4385



Check rams for breeding soundness

Sheep breeders should carefully evaluate their rams before the next breeding season so conception rates, lambing percentages and overall financial returns don't suffer says an Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist.

"Low lamb prices over the last three years have likely led to some breeders trying to stretch another breeding season out of their old rams, but this is really a false economy," says Kim Stanford.

"If rams aren't thoroughly checked for soundness prior to breeding, a large number of infertile or subfertile rams will be used. This ends up costing the breeder much more in the long run than the price of a good ram," she adds.

Stanford notes a surprising number of old and inadequate rams are used for breeding in the province. In a recent provincial study—with 19 breeders and 355 rams—approximately 20 per cent of the breeding rams were four years of age or older.

"Ram fertility declines rapidly after four years of age," she says. "This leads to later or overall lower conception, a longer lambing season and eventually a lower lambing rate."

Excessive inbreeding can also become a problem when a ram is used for breeding in the same flock over an extended period of time she adds.

Sheep producers should look at five factors to evaluate their rams recommends Stanford. Condition score, age, scrotal circumference, scrotal consistency and general health should be evaluated before the breeding season.

"Over-fat rams with condition scores higher than 3.5 may suffer from reduced semen quality, while thin rams at condition scores of less than 2.5 might not have enough energy to get the job done," she notes.

Larger scrotal circumference is linked to improved fertility in the ram and both his male and female offspring. In the same provincial study, Dorset, Rambouillet and Romanov ram lambs had an average scrotal circumference of 30 cm, while Suffolk ram lambs averaged 34 cm. Mature rams of these breeds averaged between 35 and 38 cm.

"A scrotal circumference significantly smaller than average may indicate a lack of testicular development and reduced fertility," says Stanford. "Breeders should also be cautioned against selecting rams with a scrotal circumference excessively larger than average as this may indicate inflammation, disease and lowered semen quality," she adds.

Scrotal consistency should be firm, but resilient with no hard or soft spots. The testes should also be able to move freely within the scrotum. She recommends looking for signs of scrotal frostbite.

"Frostbite can lead to adhesions between the scrotum and the testes impairing the testes' ability to move within the scrotum. This reduces semen quality," says Stanford. Scrotal frostbite can be avoided by adequately bedding rams during the winter.

The penis should also be examined for injuries. "A ram might not be able to breed if there are adhesions between the penis and prepuce," she notes.

Contact: *Kim Stanford*
381-5150

Potato, onion and corn harvesting tips

Three common garden vegetables sometimes baffle gardeners about when they should be harvested says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Potatoes and onions need to reach a certain level of maturity before they should be harvested if you want to store them," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "Corn can't be stored over a long period, but some people have trouble judging when it's ready to eat."

There are three things to look for when judging corn as ready to pick she says. "The corn silk should be brown, ears should be large enough to fill the husk and kernels should be filled with a milky juice.

"You can keep your corn in the fridge for a couple of days," Barkley adds. "Any longer than this and the corn begins to loose its flavor."

Onions can be harvested once at least half the tops on the crop have fallen over she notes. "It's important not to break over the tops early as breaking the necks can introduce disease to the onion that can cause it to rot in storage."

To force onions into maturing, push a garden fork into the ground below the onion row and gently lift up. This breaks the roots' contact with the soil. The usual time for this operation is the second or third week of August.

Once mature, onions can be dug and left to dry in the garden for a day or two—weather permitting. Cure them an additional two to three weeks in a warm, well-vented place. After curing, cut the tops off the onion bulbs, leaving an inch of neck. Put into a mesh bag and store in a cool, dry place.

When potato tops die down and dry out, potatoes can be harvested. "If tubers are left in the soil after the tops have dried, they'll develop thick, tough skins," notes Barkley. "This tougher skin means the tuber will be more resistant to drying out and disease."

Tubers without the tougher skin can be cured for one to two weeks. Gradually reduce the temperature down to between four and seven degrees Celsius. "Potatoes will keep at this temperature for four to nine months," she adds. "Spuds stored at colder than 4°C will develop a sweet taste."

Cont'd on page 5

This sweet flavor can be changed by warming up the potatoes for several days before they are eaten.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
362-3391

How-to harvest "different" garden produce

Growing fruits and vegetables that aren't run-of-the-mill may be easier than knowing when to harvest them says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"As summer passes many gardeners are asking when they should harvest things such as eggplant and varieties of squash and melons," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Eggplants with a glossy shine are ready to harvest. Cut the stem with a pair of sharp pruning shears or a knife. Leave part of the stem on the fruit. Eggplant can be stored in the refrigerator for eight to 10 days.

Harvest horseradish when the tops are killed by a hard frost. Dig the roots and store them in airtight bags in the fridge. "With cold storage you can keep horseradish for up to a year," she notes.

Jerusalem artichokes can also be dug after the tops are killed by frost. "However, unlike horseradish, leave the tubers in the grounds as long as possible," she suggests. "The tubers can also be left in the ground over the winter and harvested before the new growth starts in the spring," she adds.

Once dug up, wash and allow the artichokes to dry. Then store in airtight black plastic bags in the refrigerator or root cellar.

Dry beans can be harvested when the pods mature. Pods can be picked off the plants, or once leaves turn yellow the plants can be pulled up and pods plucked from the plants. Then dry pods in a clean area. Once dry, shell and store the beans in airtight containers.

"With its change to orange, the traditional Halloween pumpkin may be one of the easiest fruits to identify as ready," says Barkley. The rind will be a deep solid orange with a hard skin. Cut the pumpkin from the vine with a knife or pruners leaving a 7.5 to 10 cm stem.

"You can also harvest pumpkins once their skin starts to turn orange," she adds. Then, set the fruit in a warm area to ripen. Avoid piling higher than three pumpkins. Also avoid cold concrete floors. Pumpkins will store for two to three months at seven to 10°C.

When a muskmelon is ready it also has changed color, from green to tan or from yellow to tan. As well, when the stem breaks cleanly away from the fruit with light pressure, it's ready to pick. Fruit won't ripen any further after it's been picked. Muskmelon will last in the fridge for up to two weeks.

"While watermelon doesn't sound like a typical Alberta fruit, it can be grown here," says Barkley. Watermelon is ready to harvest when tendrils near the stem become dry and brown. Cut mature fruit from the vine with a pair of sharp pruning shears or a knife.

"The melon will also have a dull, hollow sound when rapped with your knuckles," she notes. "The best time to try the rapping test is in the morning because all melons sound hollow later in the day."

Color is also important when picking ornamental gourds. "Before you pick you have to know what kind of gourd you're growing," says Barkley. Harvest the bright yellow flowered Ovifera gourds when the color has changed completely. Lagenacia gourds have scented white flowers. These gourds should be harvested when they are tan colored and light weight.

Wash newly harvested gourds in warm soapy water and dry with a soft cloth. Cure in a warm room for four to six weeks. "While curing, turn the gourds regularly. Make sure they don't touch each other," she says.

If a gourd begins to mold, wash it, dry it and try curing again. Once gourds are dry, they can be varnished.

Barkley says summer squash should be picked when the fruit is small and before the skin hardens. It will keep two weeks when stored at between seven and 10°C. Winter squash, on the other hand will last six months when stored at this temperature. Winter squash is harvested when its skin can't be broken easily by pushing it with your thumbnail.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
362-3391

Harvesting apples to store

For the lucky Albertans who can grow apples, pears and plums, an Alberta Agriculture specialist has some harvesting and storage tips.

"Apples, pears and plums can all be picked before they are fully ripe, an advantage when growing these fruits in our climate," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"For long-term storage, apples should be picked before they are fully ripe," she adds. Once the apple's skin changes from grass green to light yellow and the seeds are brown, apples are ready. The apple's flesh will also have changed, from tough and pulpy to crisp and juicy. The fruit will also separate easily from its spur.

Apples can be stored in open plastic bags at 4°C. "Whatever you do, don't store apples and carrots together," she warns. "Apples give off ethylene and cause carrots to become bitter."

Cont'd on page 6

Pears can be picked while they are still firm, their skin has changed from dark green to light green, and their lenticels are prominent. "Then put the pears into storage or in the fridge for one to two weeks. This cold treatment helps the fruit ripen and improves quality," she says.

After this cold treatment, leave pears at room temperature to ripen she adds.

Plums will continue to ripen after they have been picked from the tree. "You can pick plums once they are slightly soft and the skin has a waxy bloom," says Barkley.

For more information on harvesting fruits and vegetables, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Farmers eligible for employer U.I. holiday in '93

Farmers who hired or are planning to hire employees this year are getting a holiday—on employer-paid Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) premiums.

This "holiday" was announced in December 1992 by then federal finance minister Don Mazankowski in an economic and fiscal statement.

"In a nutshell, it means farmers who hire additional employees in 1993 won't have to pay more for U.I. premiums than what they paid in 1992," says Paul Gervais, a tax/law/business arrangements specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Gervais adds the measure effectively caps U.I. premium costs at 1992 levels for any small business expanding its labor force in 1993. Employees continue to pay their full premiums.

Any incorporated or unincorporated business whose employer share of U.I. premiums in 1992 was less than $60,000 is eligible for the program. The maximum program benefit is $30,000.

"There are three different ways to use the program," Gervais notes. One alternative is for farmers to pay the 1993 employer share of U.I. premiums in full, then claim a refund on their tax return.

Another method is to pay the 1993 employer share in full until the amount reaches what was paid in 1992. Then the farmer stops paying employer premiums. "However, if the farmer reaches the maximum benefit of $30,000, then employer-share payment would resume," he says.

A third option for farmers is to continue to pay the same U.I. premiums as they paid during each remittance period in 1992.

A new business started in 1993 isn't required to pay any share of the U.I. premium up to the $30,000 maximum benefit. As well, farmers who paid no U.I. premiums in 1992 won't pay U.I. employer premiums in 1993 if they hire seasonal or full-time help this year.

"However," notes Gervais, "any business that increases its labor force and pays additional U.I. employer premiums for part of 1993, then decreases its labor force, will have to repay any benefits received from this program if its U.I. employer premiums were below what the business paid in 1992."

Gervais adds farmers who own more than one business must combine their 1992 employer U.I. premiums from their associated businesses. The $30,000 maximum benefit is then shared between the associated businesses. (Associated business rules are found in the Income Tax Act.)

For more information on this employer-paid U.I. premium holiday, contact the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4250

Agri-News briefs

Agricultural engineers meet September 22-24

The 48th annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (Pacific Northwest section) will meet in Lethbridge September 22 through 24. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineers and is an opportunity for agricultural engineers from Utah, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alberta to share ideas on the conference theme, "our commitment to industry, producers and the public". The conference convenes on September 22 with plenary sessions, technical sessions and tours follow on September 23 and 24. The banquet speaker is Tim Ball, a climatologist at the University of Manitoba. He will share his expertise and entertaining style on issues such as global warming. For more information or a registration package, call Gregg Dill, conference chair in Lethbridge at 381-5113, or Gord Cook, public relations chair, in Taber at 223-7908.

Updated dugout maintenance factsheet available

A newly revised factsheet on dugout maintenance is now available from Alberta Agriculture. The factsheet outlines how taste, odor and color problems in dugouts usually come from algae or water plants. The three-page fact sheet outlines types of aquatic vegetation and how to control them. It also discusses in brief pesticide safety, bacteria, turbidity, iron, fish and floating intakes. The factsheet is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, or by writing the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote title "Dugout Maintenance" and Agdex number 716 (B31).

University researcher observes pollen disease

A University of Alberta plant pathology professor has observed a new disease of rapeseed and mustard. J.P. Tewari terms the disease "pollen grain disease" and has started research to find out its exact cause. The disease occurs when pollen grains fall on rapeseed or mustard leaves and areas of the leaves underneath turn dark brownish and die. The dead areas may serve as sites for the entry of pathogens, he says, such as those that cause blackspot or white lead spot diseases. The pollen grains are already known to serve a nutritional role in sclerotinia stem rot disease. "Only research will tell if the browning reaction also predisposes the plant to this disease," he says. Both rapeseed and mustard plants produce abundant amounts of pollen grains and consequently numerous lesions can be produced on the leaves. He also notes the pollen grain disease can be consistently found during the flowering period of rapeseed and mustard. However, its severity varies. He says that means the factors that regulate the disease's severity need to be studied. Disease surveys for the past several years have shown the pollen grain disease is widespread in Alberta. Tewari and his wife found this disease on oriental mustard in northern India in January 1993 during a visit sponsored by the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa. They, in collaboration with another professor, also found the disease near Soest, Germany in May 1993. Tewari says he believes this disease may have been misdiagnosed in the past because of its superficial resemblance to Alternaria blackspot. For more information, contact Dr. Tewari at 492-4554 in Edmonton.

Farm, Ranch, Acreage Property Course

Olds College is offering a five-day seminar designed for real estate sales people who specialize in farm and ranch properties. The course, from September 19 through 24, is also open to anyone who wants to gain knowledge about rural properties. The lectures will be given by academic staff of the college's land sciences department and by specialists from business, professional and government groups. For more information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

Olds College goat courses

Olds College is offering a goat breeding tour on September 1. The day-long tour will feature three different goat breeding operations. The tour follows beginner and advanced goat production courses respectively on August 26 through 27 and August 30 through 31. A goat artificial insemination course will run September 9 through 11. For more information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

Making boards work September 20

The Carver Method of making boards work is a one-day session for boards offered by EACER (Edmonton's Further Education Council) and Grant MacEwan Community College on September 20. The method is a new design for leadership in nonprofit and public organizations. The trainer will be Hazel Sutherland, an instructor with the college's voluntary sector management certificate program. She has over 20 years experience as an educator, manager and consultant in the voluntary sector. The seminar will be held at the college's city centre campus. The cost is $135 per person, or $100 per person for four or more board members. An evening "transition to Carver" session is also offered. It is $25 per person, or $15 if attending the earlier seminar. Meals are included. For more information, contact EACER at 421-7141.

Sulphur Institute Release Industry Report

The Sulphur Institute's (TSI) sulphur market report, "The 1993 Sulphur Outlook", has been published and is available for purchase by the industry. The in-depth report analyzes factors affecting the industry, provides sulphur consumption and production forecasts to 2002 and the results of the institute's programs related to the environment, transportation and trade trends. Sale proceeds are used for institute programs. For more information, contact Greg Brown at TSI, 1140 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 612, Washington, D.C. 20036; telephone is (202) 331-9660, and facsimile is (202) 293-2940.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

August 30, 1993

Lenders, agribusiness invited to try market simulation workshops

Working with farmers demands understanding the many challenges they face in running a successful business, not the least of which is planning how to market their products.

"To help agricultural lenders, consultants and other members of the agribusiness community, Alberta Agriculture is offering a series of workshops this fall about grain and beef cattle marketing," says Lee Melvill, a regional marketing economist in Fairview.

The workshops are market simulations that have also been used by producers to gain a better understanding of marketing. FutureSim is the most basic of the three. Two other simulations—GrainSim and CattleSim—go further into particular markets.

FutureSim and GrainSim courses will be held in Red Deer respectively September 15 and 16, and September 28 through 30. CattleSim is scheduled for Airdrie October 12 through 14.

"We recommend people start out with FutureSim," notes Melvill. "It takes you through the basics of grain and oilseed marketing, and makes you familiar with the language."

FutureSim includes using futures contracts on the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, hedging to control price risk, and managing margin accounts and margin calls.

GrainSim simulates actual farm level grain marketing through pricing, contracting and marketing alternatives. Participants develop their own marketing plan. They also have "real world" concerns of choosing crops, acreage, fertilizer and pesticides while juggling a 20-year land mortgage and four-year machinery debt.

"GrainSim was designed to teach a high level of marketing savvy and understanding—and not just to grain producers, but also to agribusiness people from agricultural lenders to grain company staff," he adds.

CattleSim is similar to GrainSim in offering "real" situations and decision-making to its participants. Its objectives are to familiarize participants with cattle marketing alternatives and to teach them how to select between alternatives using break even calculations.

"Each participant uses their CattleSim herd and breed types to experiment with marketing, weaning, backgrounded, grassed, finished or exported animals, and breeding heifers," says Melvill.

The tentative fee for the FutureSim workshop is $80 plus GST. GrainSim and CattleSim are $110 plus GST. Space is limited. Registration deadlines are September 7, September 20 and October 4 respectively.

For more information, contact Melvill in Fairview at 835-2291, Doug Walkey in Red Deer at 340-7612 or Doug Cornell in Airdrie at 948-8536.

Contact: *Lee Melvill*
835-2291

This Week

Lenders, agribusiness invited to try market simulation workshop 1

More operators, more need for communication 2

Departments implements budget reductions to keep on track 3

Growing herbs—inside and out 3

Herbs not harder than flowers, easier than vegetables 4

Using a fresh, dried or frozen "spice" of life 4

Increasing herbs through propagation 5

Alberta Agriculture appointment 5

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

More operators, more need for communication

With over half of Alberta's farms having more than one person responsible for day-to-day decisions, communication is an important key to a successful farm business says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Statistics in the 1991 Census of Agriculture show of the total number of farm operators, 48.9 per cent were on two-operator farms and 8.9 per cent on three or more operator farms," notes Jean Wilson, family resource specialist with the home economics and 4-H branch. The rest, 42.1 per cent, were sole operators. (See graphs on following page.)

This is the first time the census has included data on multiple operators. "This data puts the spotlight on business and family communication needs," she adds. "With a family farm good communication is doubly important because business, personal and family communication are all intertwined."

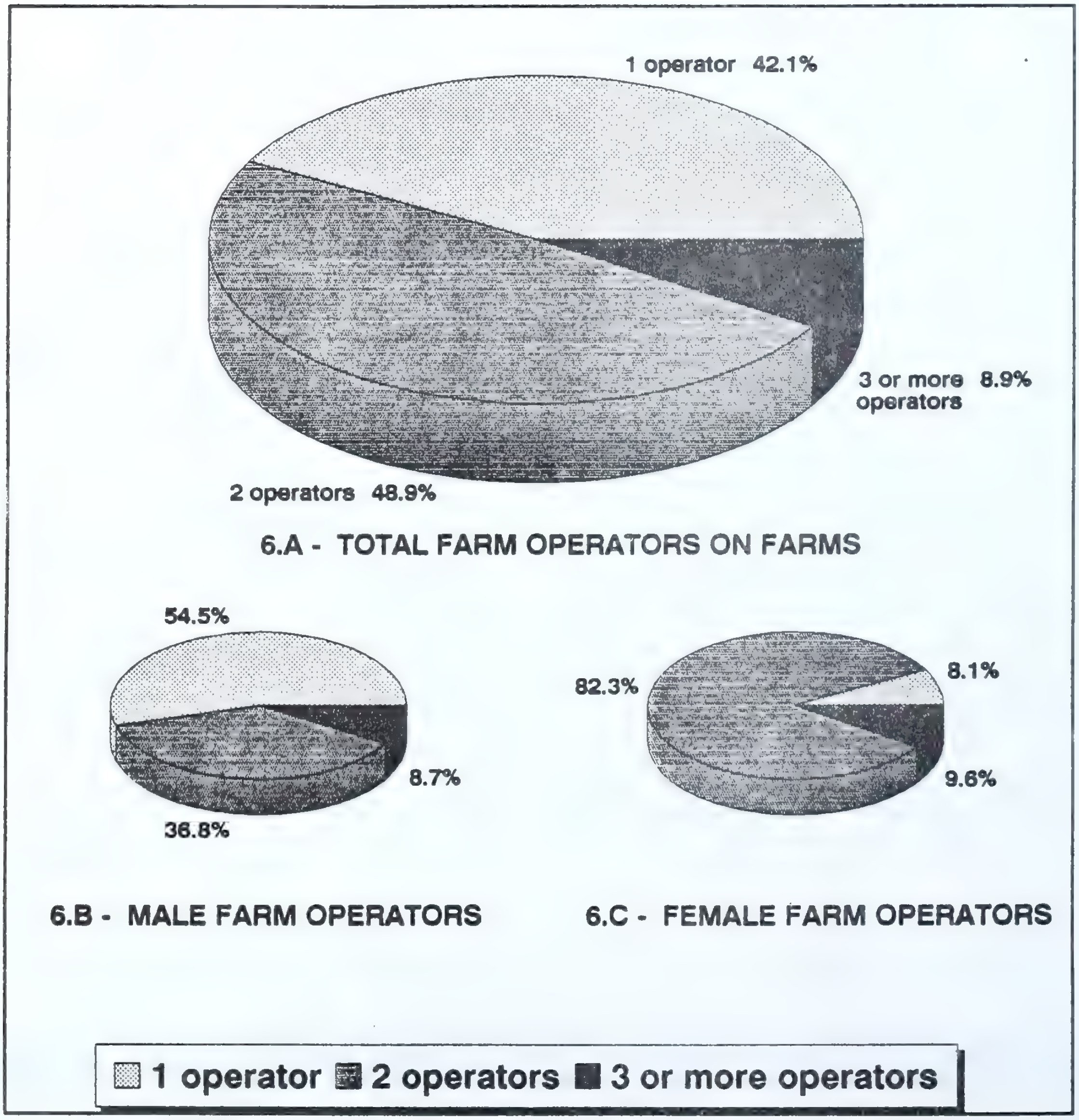
Farm families who want more information on issues, concerns and ideas in these areas might want to read two publications in the department's "Profit from People Power" series. One is on decision making (Homedex 1834-2), the other on communication (Homedex 1834-3). These publications are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices and by writing the Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

A total of 81,420 farm operators managed 57,245 Alberta farms in 1991. Most were male—59,710—the other 21,170 were female.

For more information, contact Wilson in Edmonton at 427-2412 or Coreen Moroziuk at the market analysis and statistics branch at 427-4011.

Contact: *Jean Wilson*
427-2412

FARM OPERATORS CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF OPERATORS PER FARM, ALBERTA: 1991



6.A - TOTAL FARM OPERATORS ON FARMS

6.B - MALE FARM OPERATORS

6.C - FEMALE FARM OPERATORS

Department implements budget reductions to keep on track

Details of the unspecified $16 million in cuts from agricultural programs as announced in the spring provincial budget have been outlined.

Reductions will be made to some new initiatives planned for in the May 6 budget. These initiatives weren't put in the place pending decisions on the $16 million reduction. Additional cuts were made to department operations.

"The Alberta government is committed to a four-year plan to balance the provincial budget, starting with 1993-94," says Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister.

"The budget cuts have been made in consultation with stake holders of the agriculture industry," he adds. "Before deciding where to make the cuts, we considered advice from the Creating Tomorrow agriculture and food council, as well as a number of farm organizations and individuals."

The Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance will be reduced by two cents per litre on the rebate for gas and diesel effective midnight August 19, 1993. However, the current nine cent per litre tax exemption on both will remain in place. This reduction will yield approximately $9.4 million this year and $17.5 million annually.

"Alberta is the only province that continues to provide producers with rebates on gas and diesel," says Paszkowski. "We are committed to maintaining support for this important program as long as possible, but we must also be responsible in our expenditures. The farming community understands that they must work with the rest of the economy to balance the province's budget."

Paszkowski also notes some of the new initiatives announced in the spring will go ahead, but with reduced funding. These include: new efforts to reduce cattle rustling at $110,000 for this year; new activities to develop markets in Japan, Ukraine and Russia for Alberta Made products will be funded to $250,000; and, $75,000 will go to take advantage of Mexican markets as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Department operations will also be reduced. Manpower and operating budgets will be reduced by a further 2.1 per cent. A total of $200,000 will also be reduced from the Surface Rights Board's budget.

A total of $2 million will be reduced from the operating budgets of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation (AHCIC). Recent interest rate reductions will allow ADC to cut $1 million, while reduced acres covered by the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) and a reduced wildlife damage budget, based on last year's expenditures, will allow AHCIC to reduce $1 million from its budget.

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund spending on agricultural initiatives will also be reduced by $1 million. Expenditures on the Alberta Private Irrigators Development Assistance Program and the Irrigation District Rehabilitation Endowment Fund will both be reduced by $500,000. The reductions won't affect current projects or those planned for the coming fiscal year.

Producer participation in the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) is expected to drop for the current tax year. As a result, the province will save an estimated $1 million.

"As much as possible, we have focused our resources on those programs that will encourage the industry to develop in a competitive fashion in response to market opportunities," say Paszkowski. "I am pleased that the government has supported our farmers as the budget has been determined."

Contact:	*Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus*	*C.D. Radke*
	427-2137	*427-2145*

Growing herbs—inside and out

One of the most wonderful things about herbs, aside from the multitude of flavors, is their adaptability to different growing conditions says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"If you don't have a garden, you can grow herbs in pots. Even if you do have a garden, you can put the pots outdoors," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. Container gardening your herbs lets you enjoy fresh herbs during the winter and also allows you to redesign your herb garden either inside or out-of-doors."

Herbs such as rosemary, thyme, chives, basil, mint and parsley all make great houseplants she adds. "If you harvest them regularly, the plants will keep growing and be bushy."

Herb pots can be almost anything she adds—clay, half a whisky barrel, wooden window boxes and even decorator plastic pots. "Keep in mind whatever container you use, it has to have good drainage and hold enough soil to allow plant to grow well. A depth of six inches is just about right," she says.

Herbs need a fairly rich soil mix. Barkley suggests mixing equal parts peat moss, pasteurized top soil with perlite or sand. A commercial potting soil is also suitable.

A sunny spot is the best place for a herb pot. "However, heat and dryness can mean trouble for herbs," she adds. The ideal air temperature for container herbs is between 18 and 20°C during the day and 18°C at night.

Overwatering or allowing the pot to dry out can both bring the early demise of an herb. Barkley advises watering until water runs out the bottom of the pot. Drain the drip tray after watering.

High humidity is also beneficial for good growth. "You can simulate this by setting the plant pot on a shallow try filled with pebbles. Keep the tray full of water. The evaporating water increases humidity around the plants," she says.

Cont'd on page 4

Herbs can also be moved from outdoors and potted-up Barkley adds. In the fall, before hard frost, dig up the herbs. Prune back the plants to make up for root damage.

Check plants for bugs before bringing them indoors. A spray of insecticidal soap will discourage unwanted insect visitors. "It's also a good idea to isolate the herbs from other houseplants for about three weeks. This also ensures pests haven't been brought in from outside," she says.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Herbs not harder than flowers, easier than vegetables

Herbs are wonderful to use and there's no mystery to growing them says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Herbs aren't any harder to grow than flowers and can actually be less demanding than vegetables," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "Most herbs are relatively pest and disease free and require little more than a well-drained site and a moderately fertile soil to thrive."

Like all plants, herbs are classified as annual or perennial. Annuals are seeded each year, or they may seed themselves. Basil, marjoram, chervil, borage and dill are annuals.

Perennial herbs include mint, thyme, chives and horseradish. Perennial herbs last for many years. They can be started by seed or dividing them from another plant.

She advises using perennials as the framework when planning and planting a herb garden. Taller growing plants are best at the back or centre of the garden. Annual herbs can be used as fillers.

"Be sure the annuals aren't too close to the perennials, as the annuals could be choked out. Also, avoid putting self-seeding plants in an area where you will be deep cultivating," says Barkley.

Dill and borage are quick to self-seed and can become a nuisance if not controlled. Horseradish, tansy and mint grow quickly and also can be invasive. "These herbs are best planted into a one to two gallon nursery pot with its bottom cut out and then sunk into the ground," she says.

It's also important to match the herb to the area where it will be growing. Rosemary, thyme and sage prefer a sunny dry spot. Lemon balm, chervil and mints like shaded moist locations.

Sandy loam to heavy clay soils are fine for growing herbs, as long as they are well drained. "Soils with high fertility aren't necessary," she adds. "In many cases the herbs produce more essential oils on soils with low fertility."

Water a herb garden the same as a vegetable garden. Herbs aren't water demanding and will produce more essential oils if they are grown on the dry side.

Spending time in a herb garden in the fall will help get plants through the winter. "Some mints and thyme are tender perennials that need protection in the winter," she notes. "Chives, horseradish and chamomile survive winters without extra protection."

She recommends watering the garden well before freeze-up. This protects the roots from being freeze dried. Trim back perennial herbs once the frost has killed them. A mulch on the crown of perennial plants protects them from being forced out of the ground by freeze-thaw cycles.

"Because mice love to make their winter homes under mulches, check for signs of them and use mouse bait if necessary," she adds.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Using a fresh, dried or frozen spice of life

Herbs add spice to life however they're used says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Herbs are best used fresh, but they can be dried or frozen so you can use them during the winter," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"The first step is harvesting the herbs," she adds. "Early in the morning is the best time as essential oil concentrations are the highest."

The time to harvest is before, or just as, plants flower. Use a knife, scissors or pinching to remove the new growth tips. "This both stimulates new growth and delays the plants from setting seed," she notes.

Wash leaves in water, then let them stand in a warm location until dry. Once dry, the herbs are ready to process.

There are several ways of drying herbs. Leaves can be plucked from the stem and then laid in screened boxes or wooden sacks until the herbs are crispy. Cut stalks can be hung in bundles from hooks or coat hangers. A perforated paper bag over the bundles will catch any dropping leaves and keep the herbs dust free.

"Hanging the herbs up or lying them down to dry makes little difference in the quality of the final product," she notes.

"When you use either of these methods, place the herbs in a warm, dry, dark, well-ventilated room until the plant material is crisp," recommends Barkley. "It also helps to label the bundles before you dry them and note the date they were harvested."

Once dried, the leaves can be plucked from the stems and pulverized. "Pulverizing herbs takes up less space, but some of the essential oil is lost," she warns. Store leaves in air tight metal or glass containers.

Cont'd on page 5

Herbs can also be dried in a dehydrator or an oven. Oven drying takes three to six hours in a 150°F or 60°C oven. Place the herbs on a cookie sheet and leave the oven door slightly open. Finished leaves should be dry to the touch. After the leaves are dry and cool they're ready to store.

"If you have a dehydrator, follow the manufacturer's instructions," Barkley suggests.

To freeze herbs such as chervil, parsley and basil, wash the leaves and stalks, drain them and then freeze in plastic bags.

Dill, chives, tarragon and basil need to be blanched for 50 seconds before freezing. Dip the stalks in boiling water, chill, drain and package the plant material for freezing.

"Frozen herbs can be chopped or used whole," notes Barkley. "Defrosting isn't necessary, just add them to soups or stews."

Herbs also make great additions to preserves she adds. Sage, tarragon, thyme and mint make great jellies. Herb vinegars are easily put together and can be used to flavor soups, salad dressings and in marinades.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Increasing herbs through propagation

Increasing your herb collection is simple through some easy propagation methods says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Once you've decided to have a herb garden, you probably want to be able to propagate your own plants. This is simple, whether you use seed, division or cuttings," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Starting herbs from seed is the same as starting any plant from seed. Basil, parsley and marjoram start easily from seed.

The soil mix for seed flats can be sand mixed with pasteurized garden loam and peat moss, or a commercial potting soil. Seeds should be planted into the moist soil mix at no more than twice their depth. A soil temperature of 15 to 20°C is best for seed germination. Once seeds germinate, try to maintain an air temperature of 15°C to keep the plant compact and bushy.

"Don't let the seed flat dry out," cautions Barkley. "You can prevent drying out by putting a plastic dome or sheet of clear plastic over the seed flat."

When herbs develop their first true leaf, they can be transplanted. Place them two to three inches apart in a flat, or in their own pots. After transplanting a fertilizer such as 10-52-10 can be applied to promote root growth. "Pinch the plants after three to five weeks," recommends Barkley.

Mints, rosemary and sage are best started from cuttings. "This is because they don't come true from seed," notes Barkley.

Take cuttings eight to 10 cm long from the top of existing plants. Make the cut just below a node. Pull off the large leaves and pinch out the center. Dip the cut end into water, then into a softwood rooting hormone. A flat or pot can be used for rooting the cuttings.

Appropriate soil for rooting herbs can be a mixture of 75 per cent sand and 25 per cent peat moss, or 50 per cent perlite and 50 per cent peat moss. This soil mixture should be moist, but not soaking wet. To plant the cutting, push a hole in the soil, place the cuttings in the hole and firm the soil around the stem.

"As with seeded herbs, maintain a soil temperature of between 15 and 20°C and keep the soil mixture moist by using a cover," she says. "The cuttings should be ready for transplanting after two to three weeks."

Chives and mint can be propagated by division. In the spring, lift the clumps of these plants. Use a sharp knife or spade to cut the clumps into sections. "Be sure each section has ample roots to support the top growth," she advises. "Then plant the divided clumps where you want them."

For more information on growing a herbs or a herb garden, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New game farm specialist named

Bruce Friedel is the new Alberta Agriculture provincial game farm specialist. Friedel, a former district agriculturist, has joined the livestock diversification section of the cattle and sheep branch. The section is headed by Judd Bunnage and includes livestock diversification officer Chuck Huedepohl.

Friedel spent nine years working as a district agriculturist. He started in Bonnyville in 1984 and has also worked in Pincher Creek, Sedgewick and Wetaskiwin.

His recently completed masters degree in animal science at the University of Alberta was in wildlife productivity and management. His research highlighted results from a provincial survey of wapiti producers.

This research will assist in development of an Alberta Agriculture game farm extension program, part of his new role. His job includes serving extension and applied research needs of the rapidly expanding diversified livestock sectors in the province.

Friedel also gained an international perspective of the global game farm industry through trips to New Zealand, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"I'm looking forward to the unique career challenge of working with wapiti and bison producers throughout the province," he says.

Friedel can be contacted in Edmonton at 427-5083.

Agri-News briefs

Didsbury turkey grower SPCA farmer of the year

Maria Diamond of Didsbury was named the Alberta SPCA Farmer of the Year recently. Diamond, a turkey farmer, takes exceptional care of her birds. This includes placing straw bales throughout the barn to make their environment more interesting. The award recognizes full-time farmers who successfully use husbandry methods that take into account their animals' psychological as well as physical well-being. The provincial organization also recognizes a teacher and veterinarian of the year. For more information, call the Alberta SPCA in Edmonton at 471-2020.

Crop Protection Institute Conference Sept.20-22

The Crop Protection Institute is holding its national conference September 20 through 22 at the Westin Hotel in Calgary. The institute is a non-profit trade association of the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of agricultural crop protection products in Canada. Among the convention topics are: Agriculture in 2000; Keeping Canada's agri-food business competitive in a global economy; the evolution of agricultural chemical distribution in the U.K.; personal liability for environmental contamination; "a learning from experience" panel; dealers' perspective on the warehousing project; and, partners' perception of our industry. For more information, contact the institute at (416) 622-9771 in Etobicoke.

Research partnership highlighted at joint tour

The spirit of partnership was in evidence during a busy day of tours by the board of directors of the Alberta Agriculture Research Institute (AARI) and the Canadian Agricultural Research Council (CARC). With members from across Canada, CARC conducts business meetings each year in different locations. Alberta Agriculture's research division organized tours to round out the activities. The tour included: an Alberta high-tech pilot plant facility that has patented an innovative technology, supercritical extraction, for extraction of high-value flavors, food additives and pharmaceutical ingredients; University of Alberta's food science and nutrition, and animal science departments research facilities; experimental copper fertilization plots near Stony Plain; and, a seed potato, grain and cattle operation. AARI, a provincial crown corporation governed by a board of directors represented mainly by the private sector, is Alberta's central agency for funding and co-ordinating agricultural research. CARC has a similar structure and mandate. Both agencies are devoted to determining research priorities and co-ordinating agricultural research and technology transfer of utmost benefit to the agri-food industry in Alberta and Canada. AARI provides recommendations to CARCA annually on agricultural research issues of national significance. For more information, contact Patrick Marce in Edmonton at 427-1956.

Northlands Wool Competition entries close Sept.24

Entries for Edmonton Northlands wool competition close on September 24. Each exhibitor, or farm unit, is allowed no more than two entries in any one class. There are a total of five classes including a colored class. Fleeces are to be received at Edmonton Northlands by November 4. For more information, contact Doug Laurie in Stony Plain at 963-6711 or Jack Francis in Edmonton at 436-5992.

Outstanding in his oats?

For the first time the Oat Producers Association of Alberta is planning to honor someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the oats industry. The Kirylchuk Award will be presented at the organization's November conference by Peter Kirylchuk, founding president of the association. He will be joined by Lawrence Kapitski, current association president. Nominations can be sent to: Nominating committee chairman, Oats Producers Association of Alberta, Box 1595, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N9.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

SEP 14 1993

September 6, 1993

Retirement, estate planning issues for aging farm population

Close to one-third of Alberta's farm operators are over 55, making retirement and estate planning important issues says an Alberta Agriculture family resource specialist.

"The average age of farm operators has also continued to increase," says Jean Wilson. "It went up from 47 years of age in 1976 to 49 years of age in the 1991 agricultural census."

The largest group of farm operators by age were between 35 and 54. They made up nearly half of all farm operators at 47.7 per cent. "This has been consistently the largest group in the 15 years between the 1976 and the 1991 census," says Wilson. However, the percentage of operators under the age of 54 continued to drop in that same time period." (Graphs and charts follow the story.)

Retirement planning should start long before a farm operator reaches a "retirement age" she adds. "Retirement planning should be just as important to the 20 per cent of farm operators that are under the age of 35. It should be part of your farm business planning."

Alberta Agriculture currently has a number of resources available to farm operators and farm families about retirement and estate planning. Most are available through district and regional Alberta Agriculture offices.

"As well, we're putting together a new series called 'Retirement File'," notes Wilson.

"The definite greying of the farm population also raises some interesting questions for the future," she adds. "With 20 per cent of current farm operators under 35, what will the statistics look like in the future—will there still be more farmers wanting to retire and fewer wanting to start farm businesses? And for anyone who wants to enter farming, does the fact that about 25 per cent of farm operators are over 60 make it easier to begin farming?"

For more information, contact Wilson in Edmonton at 427-2412, or Coreen Moroziuk at the market analysis and statistics branch at 427-4011.

Contact: *Jean Wilson*
427-2412

Family theme encouraged in '94

Agricultural organizations, associations and groups looking for a convention or annual general meeting theme in '94 could tap into the International Year of the Family.

"One of the overall objectives of this special year, as with previous international years, is to build awareness of specific issues among governments as well as in the private sector," notes Jean Wilson of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch. Wilson also chairs an ad hoc department International Year of the Family committee.

The Alberta government has added its support to the international year with its own vision statement, objectives and guiding principles. They were prepared by the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families and endorsed by the provincial cabinet. Alberta's slogan for the international awareness year is "Families, the heart of the matter".

Cont'd on page 4

This Week

Retirement, estate planning issues for aging farm population 1

Family theme encouraged in '94 1

Look after the grass 4

Alberta "Breeds for the World" comes to Spruce Meadows this week 4

Briefs 5

Coming agricultural events 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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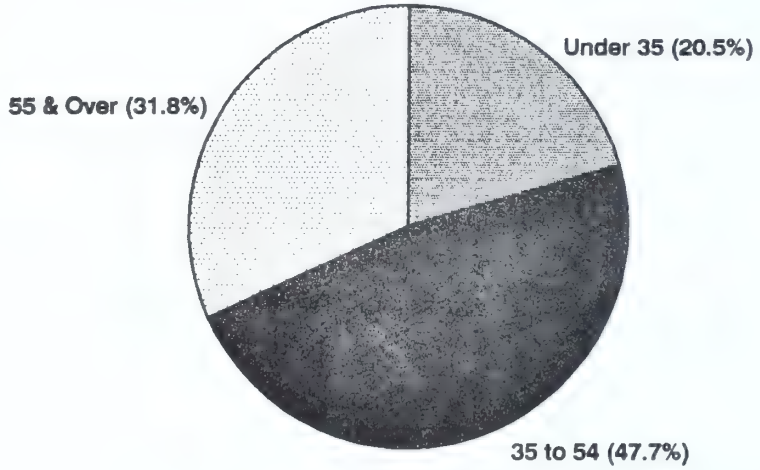
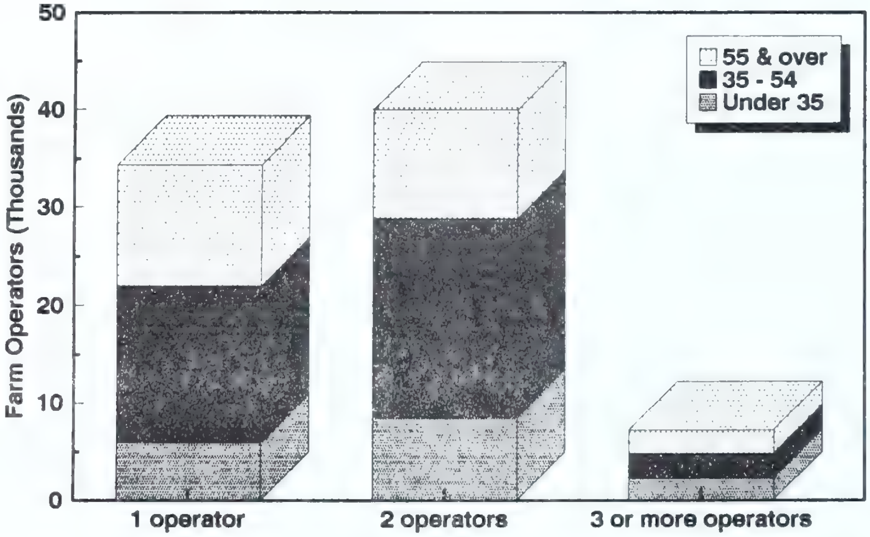
Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS BY AGE IN 1991



8.A - FARM OPERATORS BY AGE

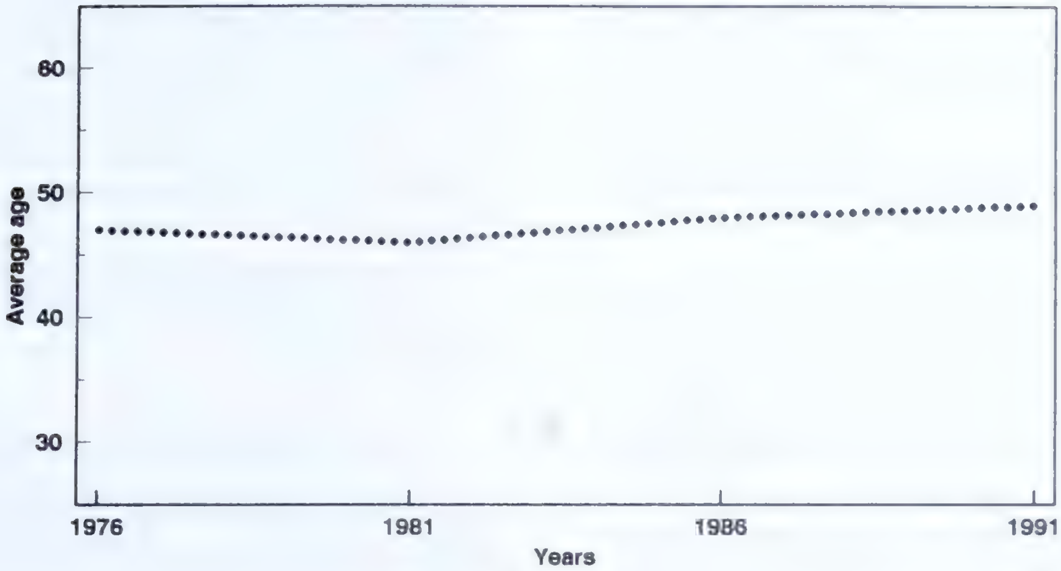


8.B - FARM OPERATORS BY AGE AND NUMBER OF OPERATORS

Graph 8.A B

The largest proportion of operators was between the ages 35 to 54. The next largest group, at 31.8% was operators 55 & older. Those under 35 represented 20.5% of operators. Operators on farms with two or more operators were younger than sole operators; Graph 8.B. Sole operators included more of those aged 55 & up and less under 35 than operators on two-operator farms. Operators of farms with 3 or more operators had a fairly even age distribution (over 30% of operators in each of the above age categories).

AVERAGE AGE OF FARM OPERATORS
Alberta Census Years 1976 - 1991



Graph 12

TABLE 9 - DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS BY AGE

AGE	1976 Per cent	1981 Per cent	1986 Per cent	1991 Per cent
Under 25	3.6	3.5	2.6	1.5
25 - 34	16.3	17.9	17.1	15.1
35 - 44	24.0	23.5	22.9	24.1
45 - 54	27.1	26.0	24.1	23.6
55 - 59	11.3	11.3	11.8	11.6
60 - 64	8.5	8.7	9.8	10.1
65 - 69	5.0	2.5	6.1	7.2
70 & over	4.2	3.9	5.6	6.7
Average age	47.0	46.0	48.0	49.0

Note: The proportions for 1991 are based on operator # 1 only (n=56,710)

Over the 15 year period the age group with the largest share of farm operators was 35 - 54. The smallest proportion of operators was under 25 years old. The percentages of operators under 54 years old continued to fall during the 1976 to 1991 period. In contrast, the older groups showed consistent increases; Table 9. As the graph shows, the average age of farm operators increased slightly from 47 years in 1976 to 49 years (for first farm operator) in 1991. The average age of all operators was 47.3 in 1991.

"This special year is about awareness, building partnerships and strengthening programs and policies," says Wilson. "With that in mind we're looking at ways to incorporate International Year of the Family into both activities with the agriculture industry as well as with our department's staff.

"Alberta Agriculture has always had a family emphasis in some of its programming, particularly related to farm families and farm family businesses," she adds. "However, there will be special efforts during 1994. For example, all provincial 4-H activities will have a family theme in 1994." The year's theme, as proclaimed by the United Nations, is "Family: Resources and responsibilities in a changing world". The motto is "Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society".

Its logo (see below) represents a heart within a house. The heart, sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart symbolizes life and love in a home where one finds warmth, caring, security, togetherness, tolerance and acceptance. The open design is meant to indicate continuity with a hint of uncertainty. The brushstroke, with its open line roof, completes an abstract symbol representing the complexity of the family.

Some of the issues related to the theme include co-ordination of services to families, a flexible workplace, support for family strength and diversity, emphasis on values, economic realities, preparing for the future, relevant policies, the role of professionals and the role of communities.

The Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families has a number of resources available. These include idea packages for planning programs or events and publications about Alberta families. For more information, contact the council by writing Hilltop House, 9910-103 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 0X8, telephone 422-0475 or FAX 427-2117.

Contact: *Jean Wilson*
427-2412

1994 International Year of the Family
Année internationale de la famille

Look after the grass

"Look after the grass and it will look after you" is a truism of a respected Alberta rancher who knew productive range didn't just happen.

That concept is examined in a 18-minute video aptly titled "Look After the Grass". The video is now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library.

"Range management principles are the central focus of the video," notes Barry Adams, range management specialist. "Those principles are seen in the video through interviews with range managers and a look at the Antelope Creek Ranch, an integrated range management project near Brooks."

The Antelope Creek Ranch, now in operation for seven years, demonstrates the value of range management principles in striking a balance between the needs of domestic grazers, wild animals and other multiple uses such as the oil industry and recreation.

The video also describes the characteristics of the natural prairie grasslands region that stretches through the Canadian Prairie provinces 2,400 km to Texas. Its diversity includes wetlands, sand hills, river valleys and the grass that is "nature's way of keeping the land covered".

For loan information, write the Multi-media branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: *Barry Adams*
381-5486

Alberta "Breeds for the World" comes to Spruce Meadows this week

A showcase of Alberta's finest equine stock is part of an international celebration at Spruce Meadows this week.

"Spruce Meadow's Masters not only includes the best of international show jumping, but also is a fair for horse enthusiasts and anyone new to things equine," says Bob Coleman of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

The Masters tournament and associated events run September 8 through 12 at Spruce Meadows. Events are daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on Friday when the hours extend to 9 p.m. for the "Evening of the horse".

The "Breeds for the World" showcase includes displays and horses from nearly 20 different breed associations. As well, there are breed demonstrations hourly at the Riding Hall where the showcase is held.

Another major component is Equi-Fair. "This is the trade show element and includes 200 exhibitors. They range from local to European and cover everything from art to tack," notes Coleman.

A crowd pleasing favorite is the AGT "Battle of the Breeds", a fun nine-event competition—from barrel racing to a obstacle course—contested by 14 different breed teams. "The winning team is recognized as the most versatile. Past winners include the Arabian, Appaloosa and Paint teams. The crowd favorite is usually one of the heavy horse teams," adds Coleman.

Two of the special events for 1993 are demonstrations from the Celle stallions, eight of the top stallions from the Hanoverian State Stud Farm; and, Mexico Artesano, an exhibition of the best from a popular Mexican art competition.

"Lending atmosphere to the whole Masters is the festival of nations featuring the food, entertainment and handicrafts of 11

Cont'd on page 5

countries," says Coleman. "It's a world class event with an amazing diversity of things to do and see at a very reasonable rate." Admission is $5 for adults and students. Seniors and children are free.

There are five feature show jumping events with teams from Canada, the United States, France, Great Britain, Mexico, the Netherlands and Switzerland. They will compete for $1.3 million in prize money, the largest prize money of any event in the world.

Spruce Meadows is located one kilometre south of Calgary city limits on Highway 2 and two kilometres west on Highway 22X.

For more information about Alberta Breeds for the World, contact the horse industry branch in Calgary at 297-6650 or in Edmonton at 427-8906. For more information on Equi-Fair and the Masters, call Spruce Meadows at 254-3200.

Contact:	*Bob Coleman*	*Les Burwash*
	427-8906	*297-6650*

Agri-News briefs

Performance tested boar sales monthly through December

The Leduc ROP Swine Test Station will be holding monthly sales of 25 to 35 performance tested boars for the next four months. All sales will be on Friday afternoons starting a 1:30 p.m. The dates are September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10. Five different breeds will be on the sale block. They are Yorkshire, Landrace, Lacombe, Hampshire and Duroc. The sales will be held at the Leduc ROP Swine Test Station at the corner of 10 Avenue and 9 Street in Nisku (2 km east of the Edmonton International Airport). For more information, contact Alberta Eringfeld at 986-5179 or Don Plain at 986-5055 in Leduc.

Record grain yields expected

Statistics Canada's first production estimate for 1993 is for record spring wheat, canola and barley yields in Alberta. A near-record yield is expected for oats. Spring wheat production is estimated to increase by 17.1 per cent over last year, despite a decrease in seeded acreage. Both seeded area and record yields should increase canola production to about 2 million tonnes. Barley production is estimated at 6.5 million tonnes, accounting for over 46 per cent of the Canadian barley crop. A bumper crop of oats with near record yields is expected to account for nearly 40 per cent of the Canadian oat crop. The production estimates are based on a producer survey taken between July 28 and August 4. They don't take into consideration any weather conditions since that period. At the time of survey, crops in most of the province were progressing well, but were about two weeks late due to cool temperatures. Expected yields are generally lower in the Peace region because of excessive rainfall.

Barn raising tradition comes to Olds College

On September 17 Olds College will start is own tradition of barn raising with a first-ever barn painting party. The party starts a 3 p.m. with staff, students and families invited to help restore the College's landmark horse barn to a rich vintage red exterior. Following in the fun tradition of a barn raising, the work of painting will be followed by a barbecue and dance. As well, local square dancers will showcase their two-step and line-dance talents starting at 7 p.m. Earlier this year a $5,000 matching grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation helped re-shingle the barn's roof. One of the prime stipulations for the re-shingling project was that it be designed to resemble the original appearance of the near century-old barn. Anyone interested in attending the barn painting party should call 556-8217 before September 15 to reserve barbecue tickets.

Mannville farmer wins CGSA grand prize

Fred Wyard-Scott of Mannville has a new truck compliments of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CGSA) "certified advantage program". Wyard-Scott recently received the keys to a 1993 Dodge Dakota from Lloyd Tovell of Vermilion Chrysler. Also on hand for the presentation was Rex Cunningham, a local seed grower and retailer. Wyard-Scott made his purchase at Cunningham's Embryo Seeds. For more information, contact the CGSA in Ottawa at (613)236-0497.

Coming agricultural events

The Masters and Equi-Fair
Spruce Meadows
Calgary September 8-12
Spruce Meadows - 254-3200 - Calgary

Leduc ROP Swine Test Station Sales
Leduc Swine Test Station
Leduc September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10
Albert Eringfeld - 986-5179 - Leduc; Don Plain - 986-5055 - Leduc

Canadian National Dressage Championships
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 10-12
Crystal Oxtoby - 239-9556 - Calgary

1993 Western Nutrition Conference
Marlborough Hotel
Calgary September 15-17
Brent Waite - 492-3029 - Edmonton

Horse Improvement Program
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 18-19
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary or Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

Canadian Cattle Penning Finals
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary September 18-19
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

4th European Symposium on Poultry Welfare
Edinburgh, Scotland September 18-21
J. Savory - 031 440 2726 - Roslin, Scotland

Crop Protection Institute National Conference
Westin Hotel
Calgary September 20-22
Wendy Rose - (416)622-9771 - Etobicoke, Ontario

48th American Society of Agricultural Engineers annual meeting
LCC Barn and the Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge September 22-24
Gregg Dill - 381-5113 - Lethbridge; Gord Cook - 223-7908 - Taber

Horse Improvement Program
Westerner Park
Red Deer September 25-26
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary or
Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

Equipment Manufacturers Institute 100th anniversary
Fairmont Hotel
Chicago, Illinois September 25-27
CFIEI - (416)632-8483 - Burlington, Ontario

Canadian Reined Cowhorse Supreme
Westerner Park
Red Deer October 1-3
Terry Loree - 556-2640 - Olds

Smoky Lake Pumpkin Fair
Smoky Lake Agricultural Complex
Smoky Lake October 2
Pumpkin Hotlines - (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) 656-3730 or 656-3674 - (6 p.m. to 11 p.m.) - 656-3508 or 656-3539

Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise October 5-7
Rod Chernos - 948-8533 - Airdrie

National Quarter Horse Show
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary October 6-10
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

International Dairy Federation groups of experts meeting
(Topic is protein standardization in milk)
Banff Centre
Banff October 7-8
P. Jeleu - 492-2480 - Edmonton

Canadian Cutting Horse Futurity
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary October 14-16
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Westerner Fall Dairy Show
Westerner Park
Red Deer November 2-3
Marg Whyte - 343-7800 - Red Deer

Agricultural Software Information Fair
Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds
Lloydminster November 4
Harry Brook - 871-6460 - Lloydminster;
Chris Spasoff - 853-8566 - Vermilion

Prairie West Horticultural trade show
Edmonton Convention Centre
Edmonton November 4-5
Judith Grant - 489-1991 - Edmonton

Northlands Farmfair '93
Agri-Com
Edmonton November 6-14
Agriculture department - 471-7260 - Edmonton

Alberta Beekeepers Association annual general meeting and convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton November 8-9
Gertie Adair - 489-6949 - Edmonton

Agri-Trade International Farm Equipment and Services exposition
Westerner Park
Red Deer November 10-13
Pat Kennedy - 347-4491 - Red Deer

20th anniversary of Lloydminster district office open house
Lloydminster district office conference room
Lloydminster November 15-19
Harry Brook or Linda St. Germain - 871-6460 - Lloydminster

Oat Producers Association of Alberta annual conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton November 17-18
Glen Binnington - 444-0066 - Edmonton

2nd Annual General Meeting - Canadian Wagyu Association
Crossroads Hotel
Calgary November 18
M.G. Morin - 289-5381

Peace region Farm Women's Conference
Golden Inn
Grande Prairie November 18-19
Linda Hawk Sellin - 846-3597 - Spirit River

Canadian Team Roping
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary November 19-21
Joan McEnvoy - 261-0162 - Calgary

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA) annual conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge November 21-23
Stan Klassen or Verna Whitney - 328-3063 - Lethbridge

Western Stock Growers' Association 98th annual convention and short course
Hospitality Inn
Calgary December 1-2
Pam Miller - 250-9121 - Calgary

Alberta Barley Commission annual meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer December 2
Mona Carder or Andrea Lowther - 291-9111 - Calgary; or
1-800-265-9111 (in Alberta only)

National expert committee on weeds
Edmonton Hilton
Edmonton December 6-8
Denise Maurice - 427-2530 - Edmonton; John O'Donovan - 632-8208 - Vegreville

Herbicide resistance workshop
Edmonton Hilton
Edmonton December 9-10
Denise Maurice - 427-2530 - Edmonton; John O'Donovan - 632-8208 - Vegreville

1994

Canadian Alfalfa Seed School
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton January 6-8
Barb Neuman or Faye Swanson - 354-2212 - Beaverlodge

1994 Saskatchewan Crop Production Week
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan January 10-14
Joan Heath - (306)668-2380 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Unifarm 1994 annual convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton January 11-13
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association annual convention and trade show
Marlborough Inn and Convention Centre
Calgary January 14-15
Ron Axelson - 250-2509 - Calgary; or 1-800-363-8598

Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 14-16
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary;
Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

1994 provincial conservation workshop and ACTS 16th annual meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton January 16-19
Peter Gamache - 422-4385 - Edmonton;
Russ Evans - 936-5306 - Indus

3rd International Dairy Housing Conference
Orlando, Florida, USA February 2-5
American Soceity of Agricultural Engineers - FAX (616)429-3852 - St. Joseph, Missouri

National Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association and international conference
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge June 12-16
John Calpas - 320-3311 - Lethbridge;
John Whitehead - 320-3313 - Lethbridge

Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed in the "Coming Agricultural Events" list. A list of agricultural society fairs was compiled by the community and rural services branch and is available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice form

Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in late 1993 or in 1994? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

Please state the name of the event.

What are the dates?

Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by November 27, 1993 to:

Agri-News Editor
Publishing Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

*(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed December 7, 1993)*

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

September 13, 1993

Mid-summer price rally in livestock markets

Cattle and hog producers enjoyed some unusual price strength during the summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Slaughter cattle markets had an uncommon mid-summer price rally, feeder cattle prices hit some record highs and hog prices also showed some unexpected strength," says Ron Gietz.

From late July through mid-August slaughter cattle producers enjoyed an unusual mid-summer price rally. "U.S. packers aggressively purchased live cattle for three consecutive weeks," he notes. "This packer demand was encouraged by positive margins, and might have been related to depleted supplies in the pipeline and improved retail interest ahead of the Labor Day long weekend.

"As well, Canadian producers benefitted from both the strength in the U.S. market and a rapidly falling Canadian dollar," he adds.

Large volumes of marketings in late July and early August compensated for low slaughter volumes through most of July. Gietz notes there are large inventories of slaughter cattle to be marketed in late summer and early fall according to the most recent cattle on feed reports.

Fed cattle markets continued their trend of one bullish surprise after another. "The early August rally in fed cattle prices triggered an additional surge in optimism in the feeder markets, resulting in some record high prices," he says. "And as of late August, Western Canadian feeder cattle markets showed no hint of lower prices."

Seasonally tight supplies are one reason prices have been "chased higher" he adds. "A better test of market strength will come when marketings increase sharply by October."

Similar to the cattle markets, U.S. slaughter hog markets came up with unexpected price strength in August. They rallied to a $50 (U.S)/cwt. level and held their gain through to late August. "Lower-than-expected slaughter volumes were again instrumental in the latest slaughter hog price gains, as was the case this winter and spring," he says.

Canadian hog producers also benefitted from a further slide in the Canada/U.S. dollar exchange rate during August. "The combination of a strengthening U.S. market and a lower Canadian dollar were sufficient to reach new annual highs for Alberta slaughter hog prices in late August," says Gietz.

Gietz's outlook is for Alberta Index 100 hogs to average $1.55/kg through September, falling to $1.35 in December. "Long term price prospects are a big question mark," he adds. "There's a discrepancy between USDA inventory estimates and actual production, the U.S. corn and soybean crops are unknown and widespread frost could play havoc with feed costs.

"But, normal fall weather could lead to moderate feed costs and a continuation of what is already one of the longest herd expansions on record."

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

This Week

Mid-summer price rally in livestock markets 1
Late wheat crop doesn't need early frost 2
Canola prices likely in top historical range 2
Feedgrain market likely to drift lower 2
Weather major factor in special crop outlook 3
Great pumpkin coming to Smoky Lake October 2 3
Stop the slug fest in your garden 3
Province committed to irrigation farming in Alberta 4
Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Late wheat crop doesn't need early frost

With the Prairie wheat crop generally one to two weeks behind normal, farmers are hoping frost is a long time in coming says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"An earlier than normal frost would add more supplies of feed wheat onto an already burdened feed market," say Larry Ruud.

"The addition of more feed wheat onto the market would likely result in wheat continuing to be substituted for barley in feed formulations," he adds.

Alberta's wheat crop is forecast at 7.5 million tonnes, up from last year's 6.3 million tonnes despite lower seeded acreages this year. Canadian production is estimated to increase by one per cent to just over 30 million tonnes.

Internationally, the wheat trade is predicted to be down this year he notes. "The former Soviet Union and China both have improved production prospects. Rising stock levels will keep a lid on price increases."

As well, the United States continues aggressive use of its Export Enhancement Program. "Bonus levels continue to range near $45 to $49 per tonne. If this continues, my current price forecast for Canadian wheat will have to be lowered by roughly five dollars per tonne," says Ruud.

He adds his price forecast is for 12 per cent protein #1 CWRS to be at $125 per tonne for 1993-94. This compares to $145 per tonne for 1992-93.

One bright spot in the wheat market is for higher quality milling wheats. "Quality problems in the U.S. spring wheat harvest has strengthened premium levels for the high protein wheat. As well, reports that French soft wheat is lower quality will also support this market," he says.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Canola prices likely in top historical range

The canola price outlook is good news for Alberta producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Canola futures prices will likely be firm in a range between $310 and $350 per tonne, and that's in the top range of historical price levels," says Larry Ruud. "Tight soybean stocks in the U.S, production uncertainties in South America and a good, strong demand for both soybeans and canola will all work to keep prices high and steady.

"Some people might have hoped for even higher prices—in the range of $375 to $400 per tonne—with the lower soybean production and tighter stock position in the U.S.," he adds. "However, I don't think soybeans futures will reach eight to nine dollars per bushel. I think it's more likely they'll trade between $6.50 and $7.25 per bushel. To go any higher would require weather problems as this crop comes off."

Ruud says the lower range is more realistic this year for a number of reasons. One, is that higher soybean meal prices will likely lead to reduced consumption as feed users can look to grains and other supplements. Second, the former Soviet Union, a major buyer, still faces credit problems that will weigh on the market.

Third, Argentina and India have increased their role in the market. "The bottom line is that we have more suppliers on the market with staggered harvest periods through the year," he notes.

As well, Japan turned to Europe to buy canola last year after the early snows across the Prairies wrecked the 1992 crop. "Japan would buy there again if our prices got out of the line," adds Ruud.

The expected record Canadian canola crop will also have a bearing on prices. "This could lead to record ending stock levels, making it hard for us to command as large a premium as we did last year," he says.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Feedgrain market likely to drift lower

Local feedgrain prices will probably drift lower over the next three months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"One the major factors is a large barley crop expected across the Prairies," says Larry Ruud. Alberta production is estimated to hit 6.5 million tonnes, up from 4.9 million last year. Canadian production is forecast to increase by 28 per cent.

Other negative factors include a lower initital payment for barley, a weak international feedgrain market and the possibility of an early frost.

One thing could temper price declines he adds. "A widespread frost in the U.S. Midwest before or during the early part of corn harvest would help support local prices."

Oat prices, on the other hand, should be favorable for #1 and #2 grades. Ruud expects prices in the $1.65 to $1.75 range, or between $107 and $113 per tonne.

U.S. oat production is forecast to fall by 15 per cent, thus increasing U.S. import demand by 20 per cent. "Normally this would lead to a rise in prices," notes Ruud. "However, with increased production here in Canada as well as in Sweden, a major competitor in the U.S. market, prices will be held back during the fall."

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Weather major factor in special crop outlook

A cool, wet summer and the possibility of frost on late crops have helped to strengthen special crop cash bids says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Uncertainty, and especially uncertainty about the weather, is the major market factor at the moment," says Al Dooley. "But longer term price outlooks are more likely close to last year's prices."

Cool, wet weather dominated the Prairie region into mid-August. Excessive rainfall in Manitoba's Red River valley did a great deal of damage to pulse and other crops. "Some early estimates put pea and lentil losses at near 80,000 acres for both these crops in that area," he says.

In Alberta, the south has also experienced a very wet summer. Crop development is well behind normal, in general about two weeks late. "If the weather holds without a frost for a few more weeks, we have the potential for large crops in Western Canada," Dooley notes.

If large crops are harvested in good condition, upward price movements will be limited. If the crop isn't harvested in good condition, Dooley expects large price spreads between off-grade product and whatever top quality product is harvested.

Peas have the most positive outlook for some price increases. A weakened Canadian dollar and stronger soy complex are supporting factors. "For other major special crops, it's unlikely prices have any upside potential and are perhaps more likely to fall if the crops that are out there can be harvested in good condition," he says.

Contact: *Al Dooley*
427-5387

Great pumpkin coming to Smoky Lake October 2

Linus isn't one of the officials, but a "great" pumpkin will be recognized at the fourth Smoky Lake Pumpkin Fair October 2 at the Smoky Lake Agricultural Complex.

The fair is part of the World Pumpkin Confederation Weigh-off. Smoky Lake is one five sanctioned Canadian sites in the weigh-off that involves 13 countries.

"The local contest is growing, getting bigger and bigger each year," says Don Christensen, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Smoky Lake. "The 'pumpkin hotlines' have received calls from all over the province, including as far north at Fort Vermilion. Calls are also coming from British Columbia and Saskatchewan."

Cash prizes are awarded for the 10 heaviest pumpkins as well as for five "hidden" weights. The top six squash and watermelons also receive prize money. The Town of Smoky Lake offers an additional $2,500 if the world's heaviest pumpkin is weighed in Smoky Lake. So far, the local pumpkins haven't tipped the scales up as far as the world champions. For example, the world's heaviest pumpkin was a world record 827 pounds. The 1992 Smoky Lake winner was 345 pounds.

"Cool summer weather will probably have kept the weights down, especially if the pumpkin wasn't sheltered," notes Christensen.

The fair is much more than the main-event weigh-off. A pancake breakfast starts October 2. Other events include bench, craft and local poultry shows; farmers' market; community fun run and race; pumpkin playground; pumpkin fiddle jamboree; pumpkin-fest and harvest dance; and, a giant pumpkin auction with 50 per cent of the proceeds going to the Children's Wish Foundation. A "pumpkin classic" fun golf tournament follows on October 3.

There are also a number of contests running throughout the day for both weigh-off participants and fair-goers. They include best looking pumpkin, competitor from the farthest distance, pumpkin carving, pumpkin painting, pumpkin weight guessing and pumpkin seed spitting.

For more information, call one of the pumpkin hotlines. Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., call 656-3730 or 656-3674. Between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., call 656-3508 or 656-3539. You can also write the Smoky Lake Pumpkin Growers Association at Box 714, Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0.

The pumpkin fair is presented by the pumpkin growers association and the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society. It is supported by a number of major and other sponsors as well as local businesses and organizations.

Contact: *Don Christensen*
656-3613

Stop the slug fest in your garden

There may be a slug "fest" in your yard, if you don't know how to control the slimy mollusks that enjoy feeding on your garden's bounty says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Part of controlling slugs is to reduce the amount of slug habitat in your yard," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"You can start as you do fall clean-up around your yard. Slugs can overwinter as eggs or adults in the soil or under boards and other debris," she adds. This means removing boards, bricks and debris on the ground. Mulches and compost piles can also be a slug hiding spot.

Slugs are susceptible to dehydration so they hide during the heat of the day in moist, dark places such as under a board. They feed at night and are most active two hours after sunset to two hours before sunrise. They forage in a relatively small area and usually return to the same spot to hide during the day. However, they can venture a distance of three blocks during an evening.

Cont'd on page 4

Shallow pans sunk into the soil with beer or de-alcoholized beer work as a slug trap. Slugs are attracted to the yeasty smell, lean in for a drink, fall in and drown.

Fruity traps also work. Place a hollow grapefruit rind or cantaloupe shell hollow-side down to catch the slugs. Boards placed around the garden will also work as a trap.

Collect the slugs from these traps, then drop them into a bucket of soapy water. "If handing these critters makes you squeamish, use a pair of tweezers," advises Barkley.

Diatomaceous earth or crushed eggshells spread around plants will also control this pest she notes. "The rough surface scratches the slug's soft body causing dehydration.

Copper stripping can also be used as a slug barrier. Copper carries a very mild electrical charge that slugs can detect, so they don't cross it. Barkley recommends copper strips about five cm wide.

"Insecticides won't work on slugs because they aren't insects, they are mollusks. So don't try an insecticide," she says. "However metaldehyde can be used as a chemical control."

Metaldehyde comes in at least two formulations. One is a slug tape that acts as a barrier. The other, slug bait, is laid out under boards or under fruit rinds.

"Placing the bait under boards or grapefruit keeps the bait dry, and since slugs naturally congregate under these type of objects, the bait is convenient," she says.

But Barkley also has a warning about using slug bait. "Slug bait can poison dogs and cats, so take care in where and how you place it. And, as with any chemical application, it's important you read the label before you use it."

There are also a number of natural slug predators. Birds such as robins and ducks like to eat slugs. Gartersnakes, toads and salamanders eat slugs. Insects predators include ground beetles, solider beetles, centipedes and rove beetles.

The mollusks are greyish, grey-brown or almost black snails without a shell. Their color depends on the species and age of the animal. They can be between three and five cm long.

Slugs feed on low growing vegetables and fruits leaving large, ragged holes on plants as well as a shiny trail of slime on leaves, sidewalks and soil. Strawberries, lettuce, cabbage and ripe tomatoes are some of their favorite foods.

Contact: *Shelley Barkley*
362-3391

Province committed to irrigation farming in Alberta

The Alberta government has confirmed its ongoing commitment to the province's irrigation district with over $15 million in borrowing assistance.

"Products from irrigated farms support the development of value-added production in the province," said Water Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister in an announcement earlier this month. "Premier Klein has emphasized the Government of Alberta's commitment to support economic growth in the agriculture and food processing industry to encourage exports of value-added products. Today's announcement confirms that commitment to Alberta's new economic development strategy."

Alberta's 13 irrigation districts serve over a half million Albertans, and contribute to the health and economic viability of the province. An irrigation impact study commissioned by the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association says 66 cents of every dollar invested in the irrigation system accrues to the Alberta economy and about 20 cents accrues to the Canadian economy. Fourteen cents directly benefits irrigation farmers. Thirty per cent of all employment in the irrigated areas of Alberta can be attributed to irrigation, including 3,200 jobs in agricultural processing and 680 in the manufacturing of agricultural and miscellaneous machinery.

Various irrigation districts annually request government assistance that enables them to borrow funds at or near the prime rate and, therefore, save considerable interest charges. The funds may be borrowed for short periods to finance an irrigation district's general operations until water revenues are received in the fall, and for preliminary funding for rehabilitation work until the irrigation district receives grant allocations from the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion Program (IREP).

"Since we began this type of support, it has never cost the Alberta taxpayer a cent. We have never had an irrigation district default or require government intervention," says Paszkowski. "In some cases, the districts put the borrowing power in place as a precautionary measure, but may not actually borrow, or may borrow part for a very short period of time."

Approximately four per cent of Alberta's cultivated land is irrigated, generating 16 to 18 per cent of the province's agricultural production. Irrigated land in the southern part of the province enables farmers to increase yields, produce higher-value crops and diversify into feeding cattle and raising a number of specialty crops.

Contact: *Dwight Dibben*
or Brian Hlus
427-2137

C.D. Radke
427-2145

Agri-News briefs

Getting started with Christmas trees

Growing Christmas trees is much more than planting evergreens and selling them years later. A two-day workshop October 15 and 16 at the University of Alberta has the details of getting started in the Christmas tree business. The course includes: what products are selling in today's market; trends in Christmas trees; cost effective production; how to minimize losses from pests; and, how to market your crop and other products from a Christmas tree operation. The second day includes a tour of a Christmas tree operation and the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. Enrolment is limited to 30 people, and there's an early bird registration special before October 1. For more information, contact the faculty of extension applied sciences in Edmonton at 492-3035.

Lamb outlook for higher prices

Unseasonable price increases are likely in the lamb market. Tighter supplies of U.S. slaughter lambs this fall will continue to send packers scrambling to fill their orders. U.S. feedlots are likely to respond by attempting to fill their lots resulting in bid-up feeder lamb prices. If the Canadian dollar's value remains at about 76.5 cents U.S., then any price rise in the U.S. should result in a 30 per cent larger increase in Canadian markets. Assuming that exchange rate, Alberta slaughter lamb prices are projected at $80 to $84/cwt. through September and in the $82 to $86/cwt. range through October and November. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's market analysis and statistics branch at 427-5387.

California contributes millions to Alberta wetland projects

In the last 20 years California has contributed over $4 million to Ducks Unlimited Canada for habitat enhancement, with most of those dollars coming to Alberta. The Canadian province and American state have had a partnership in such projects for more than five decades. The most recent funds have been through the California State Duck Stamp Bill signed in 1973. Revenues from stamp sales have helped finance over 50 Ducks Unlimited projects in Alberta. One the major projects completed with contributions from California is the Antelope Creek Ranch habitat development area near Brooks. In 1991 and 1992 just under $300,000 in funds from the California duck stamp fund helped put the final touches on this project. The working ranch incorporates a planned grazing system providing productive grasses for livestock and quality nesting cover for waterfowl, upland gamebirds and songbirds. The project is an example of Alberta's Prairie CARE program, a major component of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. A special salute to California was held September 9 at Antelope Creek. For more information, contact Jay Bartsch with Ducks Unlimited in Brooks at 362-4827 or Gord Edwards in Edmonton at 489-2002.

Government reaffirms commitment to sell Gainers

Interested parties are invited to submit proposals for the purchase of Gainers. Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, confirmed the sale of Gainers remains a key priority for the Alberta government. The provincial government won't participate in financing the sale transaction. Prospective buyers will also be given a limited time-frame to submit proposals. This action is consistent with Premier Klein's commitment to privatize government-owned business that should be operated by the private sector. "The Government of Alberta recognizes and understands the public's concern with government involvement with Gainers," says Paszkowski. "We will pursue all options in order to complete the sale." While extensive negotiations had been held with a number of potential purchasers, none reached a successful conclusion. During these discussions, adds Paszkowski, a number of other companies had shown interest in buying Gainers, but because of the ongoing discussions, these other firms couldn't be dealt with at the time. Paszkowski says the government's objective is to have concluded a sale before year-end. For more information, contact Paszkowski at 427-2137, or Barry Mehr, assistant deputy minister, at 427-2442.

Phone (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

September 20, 1993

NOV 1 1993

Collecting SINs for tax slips starting soon

Alberta Agriculture will be sending producers a request for their social insurance numbers starting October 1.

"We need either a SIN number or an income tax identification number in order to send out tax slips and comply with changes to Income Tax Act regulations," says Ken Moholitny, director of Alberta Agriculture's central program support division.

Depending on how farmers run their business, they'll be asked to provide a SIN number, corporation or trust account number, or partnership identification number. Forms will be mailed out, with a return envelope, to producers enrolled in the Crow Benefit Offset Program.

All levels of government as well as any producer organizations that provide support payments are required to collect these numbers and distribute the tax slips. The February 1992 federal budget outlined this change of procedure. The tax information slips will be similar to a T4 slip and will indicate the total payments made.

"These tax slips should make filling out income tax returns easier," notes Moholitny.

"Some producers might have already provided a SIN or tax identification number to other programs," he adds. "However, to avoid any potential errors or mix-ups, we'll collect the numbers on forms specifically designed for provincial programs."

Farmers won't begin receiving this tax information slip from Alberta programs until 1995, for the 1994 tax year. The federal government plans to begin issuing the slips for the 1993 tax year.

For more information, call central program support in Edmonton at 422-0015 (toll-free through the nearest government RITE centre) or at 1-800-232-9479, or Revenue Canada in Winnipeg at 1-800-363-8924.

Contact: Ken Moholitny 422-9167 — Brenda Blakey 422-0015

Book corrals beef

The cattle handling equation is explained in a new Alberta Agriculture publication titled "Corrals for handling beef cattle".

"There are three elements in good cattle handling systems—handler skill and techniques, cattle behavior and corral design," notes the book's author, Robert Borg, Alberta Agriculture regional engineer based in Red Deer.

The 91-page book starts with cattle behavior and handling techniques and then looks at corral design, geometry and components. It includes over 60 design drawings and corral plans. These designs cover gates, pens, fences, scales, alleys, shutes and other working areas.

"A well designed corral has many benefits," says Borg. "It will reduce handling time and operator requirements, increase operator safety and minimize animal injury and stress during treatment and handling.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Collecting SINs for tax slips starting soon 1
Book corrals beef 1
Rats, rats, rats 2
Autumn needle shed natural 2
Alberta Agriculture appointments 3
Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Each design also includes a cost index based on a minimum working corral. This basic is pegged at between $1,200 and $1,400 for materials," Borg says.

The book was reviewed by industry experts. One of them was Temple Grandin, an internationally recognized authority on cattle behavior from Colorado State University. "Much of the cattle behavior section of the book is based on her research," adds Borg. As well, several Alberta Agriculture specialists contributed their expertise to the book.

The book is available for $10 (plus $2 for shipping and handling and seven per cent GST) through Alberta Agriculture. Cheques should be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer and sent to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Finance and Human Resources Division, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Orders from outside Canada are an additional $3. Order forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact: Robert Borg
340-5323

Rats, rats, rats

Norway rats ceased to be a major menace in Alberta more than 40 years ago when the provincial rat control program began, but the destructive rodents still make occasional appearances.

"While our rat patrol does watch for rats—and destroy any that show up—in the rat control zone, we do rely on farmers and others to report sightings," says John Bourne, regional problem wildlife supervisor with Alberta Agriculture based in Vermilion.

While rats rarely turn up in urban centres, the possibility does exist he adds. "However, because rats aren't common, people really don't know what to look for or how to control them."

A new, four-page Alberta Agriculture factsheet is now available about rats and rat control. It provides information—including pictures—on how to identify a Norway rat including its weight, length, color, feet, eyes, nose, tail and how to recognize rat signs such as droppings, holes and nests.

Bourne says the factsheet will be provided to municipal pest control officers, health inspectors and other urban workers who might have to deal with rat complaints.

The factsheet is also available to anyone who wants to know more about how to recognize a rat. "We hope this kind of self-educating factsheet will eliminate some of the guesswork that goes into identifying Norway rats. If people can make a positive identification quickly, the problem can be dealt with more quickly. It might also prevent false sightings," says Bourne.

Norway rats aren't native to Canada. They are one of the most destructive creatures known to man. They cause economic losses through destruction of food and property, and disease transmission.

Copies of the publication "Rat control in Alberta" (Agdex 682-2) are available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: John Bourne
853-8225

Autumn needle shed natural

Autumn means trees will begin the natural process of shedding their leaves, including trees with needles says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Shedding happens in evergreens just as it does with deciduous trees such poplars and lilacs," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

The foliage in the interior of evergreens turns yellow, then brown and eventually falls off. "Often this process goes unnoticed because it's gradual, and the needles on the outside of the plant conceal it," she adds. "Sometimes many needles will discolor all at once and the plant appears to be dying."

Each type of evergreen has its own schedule and way of shedding she notes. Scotch, lodgepole and Austrian pines hold their needles for three to four years. Spruce and fir hold their needles longer. Spruce can hold their needles for up to six or seven years.

Needles on pine trees grown in bundles of two, three or five, so instead of loosing needles singly, they will drop the whole bundle. Cedars (*Thuja* spp.) and some junipers have scale-like leaves covering branchlets instead of needles. These trees will drop entire branchlets.

"Stress can cause the plant to drop more needles," Barkley adds. "Things such as drought, poorly drained soils, transplant shock or spider mites all stress trees. And, once these needles are lost, they won't be replaced as this is how the tree regulates its mass."

Barkley's advises to keep evergreens as healthy as possible with proper watering and insect control. "While needle shed is natural, you should also check for signs of disease or insects. If you're still unsure, consult a horticulturist."

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New regional poultry specialist based in Edmonton

Martin Zuidhof is Alberta Agriculture's newest regional poultry specialist. Based in Edmonton he will serve northwest, north central and Peace regions of the province.

His duties will include applied poultry research, providing extension information to poultry producers and agribusinesses as well as regulory requirements of the Livestock and Livestock Products Act, particularly the poultry health program. "I look forward to being part of the provincial poultry team," he says. There are three regional poultry specialists. Zuidhof recently completed a masters degree at the University of Alberta. His thesis investigated nutrient dilution and the well-being and productivity of female broiler breeders. He has participated in several research projects, scientific meetings and industry meetings on poultry production and poultry science. He has also received several awards including the Alberta Egg Producers Marketing Board scholarship in 1992.

Originally from Lacombe, Zuidhof grew up on his parents' hog farm near the central Alberta town. He was production manager of the operation before finishing his education.

Zuidhof can be reached in Edmonton at 427-5320.

Communications officer joins Central Program Support

Katherine Roberts is the new communications officer for Alberta Agriculture's central program support division. She will be responsible for helping ensure good two-way communications between the division and its producer clients, specifically for programs administered by the division.

"This means getting 'plain', understandable program information out to producers and gathering their feedback. We want to meet producer needs as effectively as possible," she says.

Roberts joins this department from Alberta Economic Development and Tourism. She holds a degree in public relations from Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.

Originally from a Prince Edward Island farming and fishing community, Roberts notes agriculture is also a leading economic sector in Canada's smallest province. "I've gone from an island where agriculture is the most important industry to a land-locked province where people water ski and sail on weekends. Canada certainly is diverse," she says.

Roberts can be reached in Edmonton at 422-9167.

Agri-News briefs

Renewable Energy Site Day today

A site day will be held at the Alberta Renewable Energy Test Site this afternoon (September 20). Participants at the Canadian Wind Energy Conference '93 will make the site near Pincher Creek one of their tour spots. As well, the site will be open to the public. While there will be no formal presentations, units currently on test will be on display and technical staff will be available to answer questions and provide information. Among the units currently on test are aeromotor water pumpers, windmotor water pumps, aeration turbines, a four-panel tracker with floating centrifugal pump, three-panel fixed with submersible pump, six-panel fixed with positive displacement rotary valve pump and a one-panel aeration system. The test site is located three kilometres east of Pincher Creek on Highway 3. For more information, contact Robert Proctor or Joanne Novak at 329-1212.

Crop residue management demonstration day Oct. 6 in Wetaskiwin

Direct seeding begins at harvest and a crop residue management day will demonstrate that fact October 6. The demonstration day will be held at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin. Equipment demonstrations and speakers will address straw and chaff spreaders, harrows and mowers. A $10 registration fee includes lunch. The demonstration day is one of a series on reduced till. It is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Canada/Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA), the counties of Leduc, Ponoka and Wetaskiwin, and the LeeLand Applied Research Association. To pre-register or for more information, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Wetaskiwin at 361-1240.

Farm safety centre pitches concept to corporations

A diverse group of corporations will be in Raymond September 20 and 21 to learn more about a proposed North American Farm and Environmental Safety Centre. About 20 corporations ranging from John Deere and Alberta Pool to Coca-Cola and McDonald's will hear about the goals and benefits of the proposed centre that will highlight farm and environmental safety along with rural lifestyles. The two-days of sessions are designed for potential corporate sponsors to learn more about the curriculum, physical facilities, promotion and project funding. Drew Alston, project co-ordinator, says a number of the companies are already enthusiastic about being part of the centre. The project will involve both private and public sectors as well as interest groups and service clubs. The centre will be both educational and recreational offering visitors interactive displays and training. Between 27,000 and 50,000 people are expected to go through the centre in its first year. For more information, contact Alston in Magrath at 758-3778.

Phone: (403) [illegible]

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
NOV - 1 1993

September 27, 1993

No drought income tax deferral in 1993

With wet weather through the summer of 1993, preliminary indications are no regions of Alberta will be eligible for a federal program allowing producers to defer income from the sale of breeding livestock.

"The fact that there are no designated drought areas in 1993 has implications for farmers who took advantage of the deferral in 1992 by carring forward an income deferral from a previous year or who sold breeding animals earlier this spring," says Paul Gervais, a farm business managment specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

The federal government program, administered through the Income Tax Act, allowed farmers in designated drought regions to defer sale income if conditions forced them to sell breeding stock so they could rebuild their herd the following year.

Income from selling breeding animals in 1993 will be taxable in this tax year notes Gervais, as will any income deferred through the program in 1992.

"Forty-five areas of the province were designated as drought deferral areas last year. Of these, 13 areas were designated in both 1991 and 1992," he adds. "This allowed these farmers to carry the income deferral from 1991 forward to 1993." These areas are: the counties of Thorhild, Beaver, Athabasca, Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Two Hills, Vermilion River, Minburn, Lamont; the municipal districts of Wainwright, Bonnyville and Westlock; and, Improvement District 18 (south).

"Two of those municipalities—the County of Vermilion River and the Municipal District of Wainwright—have been eligible for the income deferral since the program was first announced in 1988," says Gervais. "It's possible that farmers in these areas have carried forward the income deferral since then."

For example, a farmer who deferred $50,000 from breeding stock sales will have to bring $50,000 into taxable income this tax year. Opting to rebuild the breeding herd by buying cattle or by taking other steps can reduce this taxable income.

"Tax management strategies range from pre-purchasing inputs for next year's crop to paying wages to family members who work on the farm," says Gervais. "However, don't create a loss for tax purposes with purchased inventory, as the mandatory inventory adjustment (MIA) rules would come into force to reduce the loss."

Gervais urges farmers who used the tax deferral in drought regions to assess their situation before the end of the tax year. "This gives you time to take advantage of tax management opportunities while they remain in 1993," he adds.

Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4250

Editor's note:The next article, "Tax management strategies after drought deferral" goes into detail about options producers have.

This Week

No drought income tax deferral in 1993 1
Tax management strategies after drought deferral 2
Certificate required to sell lawn and garden pesticides 2
Fall toil for spring flowers 3
Agriculture tax update for professionals coming October 26 3
Agenda set for provincial conservation workshop 4
Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Tax management strategies after drought deferral

Livestock producers who have to include deferral income in 1993 from drought years might need to consider tax management strategies to avoid large income liabilities this year says an Alberta Agriculture tax specialist.

"It isn't likely any of Alberta will be designated as a drought area this year, so any producers who have deferred income from the sale of breeding livestock from a prior year, will have to include that income on their 1993 tax return," says Merle Good, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

The federal government program, administered through the Income Tax Act, allowed farmers in designated drought regions to defer sale income if conditions forced them to sell breeding stock, so they could rebuild their herd the following year.

"Some farmers might have chosen not to continue in livestock, or keep a smaller herd. If that's the case, they could face a significant rise in income from the deferral in this tax year," says Good.

However, the deferred income is considered by the Income Tax Act to retain its character of being income from livestock sales. "This means you have some tax management options and can use a variety of income deferral strategies and or year end purchases of inputs and supplies to help offset the deferred amount," notes Good. "Revenue Canada, though, has certain guidelines that must be followed."

Those guidelines involve deferral options such as prepaid expenses, purchasing inventory, purchasing cattle, non-capital loss carryback and income deferral. "All of these options simply defer the income tax liability, they aren't an absolute reduction of your tax payable," adds Good.

Buying livestock for resale as quickly as a favorable opportunity presents itself, doesn't automatically qualify as a deductible expense.

"Cattle must be held for at least 60 days or gain on average 200 pounds to qualify as a deduction when sold," notes Good. "For example, if a producer spends $50,000 buying calves on December 15 and sells them again on January 2, 1994, that $50,000 could be denied as an eligible expense for 1993."

A prepaid expense is the cost of a service paid for in advance. This could include insurance, taxes and rent paid for in one year, but the farmer doesn't get the benefits until the next year. The full amount of a prepaid expense can be deducted from income, if you file on the cash method and have a binding contract with the supplier.

Purchased inventory, such as fertilizer and farm chemicals, can be deducted as well. Revenue Canada has indicated it isn't necessary to take physical possession of this inventory, but the farmer must have a binding contract with the supplier and the funds can't simply be placed as a payment on account.

With deferred income included in 1993, producers might want to withhold sales of this year's production until 1994. "Markets might make it necessary to sell produce in 1993, but there are two methods of deferring that income until 1994," says Good.

These methods are the deferred grain ticket and postdated cheques. Through a deferred cash purchase ticket, producers may be able to defer income until their next fiscal period, if the ticket calls for payment after the end of the year.

"You can also consider using your cash advance rather than selling grain, as these advances are considered loans, and so aren't included as income for the current year," notes Good.

Revenue Canada indicates a postdated cheque accepted as security for a debt, without paying out the debt, isn't considered income until the cheque is payable. "Apparently, even if the cheque is postdated into a subsequent year at the request of the farmer, Revenue Canada will maintain this view of income deferral," adds Good. "This strategy can apply, for example, to livestock auction houses, private grain traders, crop insurance and GRIP proceeds."

Another tax management strategy is the application of a non-capital loss carryback. However, Mandatory Inventory Adjustment (MIA) rules limit this strategy.

"If the Livestock Drought Deferral Program triggers a large tax liability in 1993, and it's not possible to postpone your cattle purchases until 1994, the farm loss can't be carried back to 1993," says Good.

For example, a livestock producer defers $30,000 in livestock sales to 1993, decides not to rebuild the herd until 1994 and incurs a $30,000 loss that year for the cattle purchase. "With MIA," says Good, "the 1994 loss would be disallowed and couldn't be carried back to recapture the taxes paid in the extraordinarily high income year of 1993."

Good adds without income averaging mechanisms such as general averaging and the five-year block average provision, farmers who are deferring significant amounts of taxable income may have to look at forming a company some time in the future.

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

Certificate required to sell lawn and garden pesticides

All sales outlets in Alberta that sell lawn and garden pesticides must be approved by Alberta Environmental Protection before May 1, 1994.

"To qualify for an Alberta Pesticide Vendor Approval, an outlet must employ at least one certified pesticide dispenser during the retail season," says Jock McIntosh, head of licencing and compliance for the pesticide management branch.

The approval program applies to all retail outlets selling regulated domestic class pesticides. "These regulated pesticides include pest control products formulated for outdoor lawn and garden use," notes McIntosh.

Cont'd on page 3

Outlets that sell only **non-regulated** domestic class pesticides won't require a pesticide vendor approval he adds. These include: mosquito coils; pesticides for direct application on people or pets; those for use inside homes; and, wasp/hornet sprays not intended for use on vegetation.

McIntosh says the objective of this certification program is to ensure consumers have access to correct information about pest control. "This means having at least one person at a retail outlet who knows pesticide sales regulations and safety requirements. Certificate holders won't be pest control experts, but so they can assist buyers, they will be familiar with pesticides, pesticide safety, provincial regulations and provincial reference materials."

Certification can be obtained through a home study course. The certification course is available through Olds College. It requires a supervised, written examination for final certification. To register for the $50 course, call Olds College at 556-8344.

The approval program was developed through consultation with pesticide manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

For more information on the program, contact your pesticide sales representative, Alberta Environmental Protection at 1-800-661-3495 or Olds College at 556-8344.

Contact: Jock McIntosh
427-5855

Fall toil for spring flowers

Time spent putting out bulbs this fall will reward you with beautiful spring blossoms says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Flowers can appear in your yard from very early spring until annual flowers start to bloom by using different varieties and species offall-planted bulbs," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Striped scilla, Glory of the Snow and squills all bloom very early. "Some even bloom before the trees begin to leaf out," she adds.

These bulbs produce small plants, so work well next to walkways, entrances and patios.

Next to show their colors are crocus and early flowering tulips.

Mid-spring brings grape hyacinth, Darwin and Triumph tulips, Fritillarias and daffodils. Late flowering tulips and flowering onions are the last of the fall-planted bulbs to produce color in the spring landscape.

"Bulbs can be put to use in your landscape in a wide variety of ways," she notes. "Try planting fall bulbs in ribbon plantings along sidewalks, foundation plantings, in groups in front of shrubs, in rockgardens or to naturalize a piece of ground."

Another interesting way to use bulbs is to plant them among low growing juniper. "The flower will pop up above the juniper and the foliage will die back almost unnoticed," she says.

Planting two different types of bulbs at different depths in the same flower bed gives another arresting display. Darwin tulips can be planted at 20 cm deep, then covered up with about eight cm of soil. Follow with bulbs such as Glory of Snow at this 12 cm depth. "What you'll get is tulips peaking through as the Glory of Snow is in full bloom," she notes.

Naturalized plantings in turf or at woodlot edges is also easy and adds color. Gently toss bulbs out of a pail to the ground using a sweeping motion. Plant the bulbs where they fall. Some may have to be moved if they're closer than 12 to 20 cm apart.

"As well, you have to delay mowing that area in the spring. Don't mow for at least four to six weeks after the flowers fade," she adds.

Planning where you plant bulbs also takes some other considerations. Bulbs planted in the shade will bloom later and longer than those in warm, sunny places. Large group plantings are more eye catching than straight single rows. Combining colors in groups is more effective than mixing several colors in one group.

Barkley also has advice for when and how to plant bulbs. Bulbs can be planted in late summer or early fall. They have to be in the ground a minimum of 10 days before the ground freezes. "Daffodils are earlier-the-better planted as they need time to establish roots," she says.

"It doesn't hurt to plant bulbs five to 10 cm deeper than recommended, especially if you have sandy soils," she adds.

A five cm deep mulch can be applied to bulb plantings in the fall. The mulch helps the bulbs survive the winter, but needs to be removed in the spring.

Another spring-time chore is to water the bulbs. "They are sensitive to drying during the pre-flowering period, so be sure to water them if they are dry or the flowers will blast—blossom and die very quickly or fail to bloom," says Barkley.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agriculture tax update for professionals coming October 26

Hot agricultural tax issues will be on the agenda at the 13th annual Agriculture Tax Update for Professionals seminars offered in six locations across the province between October 26 and November 4.

"The one-day update is geared primarily toward accountants and lawyers who deal with agricultural taxation matters," says Merle Good, program co-ordinator and a tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

"Farming is a unique industry and therefore we feel the course should focus on tax implications, strategies and business arrangements that work in that industry," he adds.

The workshops will be held in Medicine Hat on October 26, Calgary on October 27, Lloydminster on October 28, Grande

Cont'd on page 4

Prairie on November 2, Edmonton on November 3 and Red Deer on November 4.

Good will open each program by outlining current "hot" agricultural issues. "This year we will look at the NISA versus VAISA argument and other new program developments, changes in agriculture and the current client profile," he notes.

Two chartered accountants, Alex Fraser and Dean Gallimore, will speak on business arrangements and the implications of triggering the $500,000 capital gains exemption between family members. Fraser, a senior partner with Deloitte and Touche in Calgary, specializes in income tax and general business services to the agriculture industry. Gallimore, a senior manager with Peat Marwick Thorne in Lethbridge, specializes in income tax.

Concurrent sessions offer participants the option of an in-depth look at partnerships or corporations through a "back-to-the-basics" approach. A regular feature, "tips and traps" will be part of each workshop.

"This program is designed for professionals in agriculture, so we urge farmers to get in touch with their accountants and lawyers and encourage them to attend," says Good.

The update courses have been successful in past years. Approximately 500 professionals have attended the six workshops.

Registration fees are $150. This includes lunch as well as a binder of related materials. "The binder is also available for $75 for anyone who can't attend one of the seminars," notes Good.

For more information, contact the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240 or FAX 556-7545.

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

Agenda set for provincial conservation workshop

Moving to sustainable agriculture will be the theme of the 1994 Conservation Workshop and Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) 16th annual meeting January 16 through 19 in Edmonton.

Ron Hicks, president of the international Soil and Water Conservation Society, will be the opening keynote speaker. Currently an assistant deputy minister with Alberta Environmental Protection, Hicks will discuss how to assume an active role in achieving sustainability.

"Another featured speaker may be familiar to some Albertans," notes Peter Gamache, workshop co-ordinator. "David Granatstein of Washington State University was in the province for a series of sustainable agricultural workshops a couple of years ago." Granatstein, currently the co-ordinator of the Centre for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at Washington State, will talk about "putting farmers first in solving agricultural problems".

"We've made some changes to the workshop and not just to its name," notes Gamache. The name change removes the word "soil" from the workshop's description. "This better reflects the sustainable agriculture issues that are covered at the workshop," he adds.

As well, a new feature for the 1994 workshop is an evening session. This will be an opportunity to meet with conservation researchers and discuss their projects.

"The workshop will continue to provide other features participants have valued in the past," says Gamache. These include farmer speakers, concurrent sessions and displays.

Seven Alberta farmers will describe their conservation system, the challenges they face and how they are overcoming problems. Concurrent session topics include direct seeding, woodlot management, riparian area management, water quality, new technologies and conservation economics.

"We believe the workshop has proven itself as an excellent opportunity to meet with conservationists from across Alberta and neighboring provinces. Definite highlight are the new contacts made and the chance to exchange ideas," he says.

Registration forms will be sent to Alberta Agriculture district offices and municipal agricultural fieldmen in October.

For more information about the workshop, contact Russ Evans, ACTS executive manager, at 936-5306, or Gamache in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Gamache 422-4385
Russ Evans 936-5306

Agri-News briefs

Alberta Ag minister supports federal barley appeal

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, has expressed disappointment over the federal court decision that prevents farmers from marketing barley to the U.S. outside the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). Paszkowski supports the federal government's appeal of the decision on the continental market issue. He also supports the request for a stay of the federal court's decision to protect the volumes and prices already obtained by the private sector on behalf of farmers. Prices received by farmers selling into the U.S. have been significantly higher than those received by selling to the CWB. "During the first six weeks of the continental market, trade analysts estimate that close to half a million tonnes of barley were contracted for delivery for the remainder of the crop year," says Paszkowski. "In the last five years, the CWB has never sold this amount to the U.S. market in an entire crop year." He also stresses the continental barley market was implemented to offer a choice to those in the industry with the desire to market their own barley. The federal government's decision didn't take anything away from those who wished to continue selling to the CWB. "Removal of the heavy-handed controls and regulations are keys to resolving the problems faced by our grain industry over past years. A return to the old state won't allow our industry to meet the opportunities of the future," he adds. The Alberta government is exploring the legal options available to the province to ensure farmers keep the right to market barley outside the CWB. For more information, contact Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus, executive assistants to the minister, at 427-2137, or Doug Radke, Alberta Agriculture deputy minister, at 427-2145.

Dairy showcase returns to Westerner park in Red Deer

The second Westerner Fall Dairy Showcase returns to Westerner Park in Red Deer November 2 and 3. The showcase features Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein dairy cattle as well as a junior all-breeds show and a Holstein sale. There's also an educational element of the showcase. "Cow comfort" and "total mixed rations" will be presented by Dr. Gordon Jones of Oconta Falls, Wisconsin on November 2. The seminar is $15 per person and includes lunch. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Westerner office at 343-7800 by October 28 to register. For more information, contact Wayne Van Sickle, show chairman, at 227-2624, or Shannon Whitehead, events co-ordinator at 343-7800.

Agribition looking for seed competition entries

Entries are wanted for five different grain competitions at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina November 27 through December 3. The competitions are for pedigreed seed, hay and silage, youth sheaf, junior grain processing and wheat waving. For information and entry forms, contact Canadian Western Agribition, Box 3535, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3J8, call (306)565-0565 or FAX (306)757-9963.

Alaska Ag week stewardship seminar Nov. 12-13

The 16th annual agricultural symposium during Alaska's ag week will focus on agriculture as stewardship of the environment. The two-day seminar is November 12 and 13 in Fairbanks. The 1993 Alaska Ag Week runs November 9 through 13. Other activities scheduled include the state's greenhouse and nursery conference November 9 and 10 and a master gardener conference on November 11. For more information, on these two programs, contact Anchorage District Co-operative Extension Service at (907)279-5582. For more information on the stewardship symposium, contact Dr. Raymond Gavlack, chairman, at (907)746-9450 or Marsha Melton, co-chairman, at (907)745-2403.

Peace farm women's conference "charts" future Nov. 18-19

"Charting the future" is the conference theme and the topic of the keynote kick-off at the 16th annual Peace region farm women's conference November 18 and 19 in Grande Prairie. Rick Matishak, a human resource development consultant, is the keynote speaker who will tell participants how to maximize their inherent abilities to increase personal growth and effectiveness. The theme broadly depicts the expanded role of today's farm woman. The conference is a popular "get away from it all" opportunity for farm women to meet with their peers and discuss mutual concerns and interests. Included on the conference agenda are: estate planning, leadership skills, life choices, community revitalization, home based business, raising the next generation of farmers and personal financial management. Conference brochures are available from Alberta Agriculture district home economists in the Peace region.

Study tackles farm women training needs

The training needs of farm women are outlined for the first time in a recent federal government study. Traditionally, agricultural training programs have been developed and delivered for the full-time, male operator. The study looks at barriers to training opportunities, the level of commitment to training by farm women, and the changing role and future training requirements of women in agriculture. For more information, contact Dorothy Middleton, executive director of the industrial adjustment services committee, in Ottawa at (613)987-5328.

Regional agricultural society meetings this fall

Plans are underway for a series of agricultural society meetings across the province. The meetings are an opportunity to share ideas and get new knowledge to help individual organizations. Fall meetings are as follows: multi-regional meeting in New Sarepta on October 23; Peace regional meeting in Manning on October 30; Northeast regional meeting in Vermilion on November 16; and, south central regional meeting in Crossfield on January 29, 1994. The southern regional meeting still requires a host, so the date and location haven't been set. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's community services in Edmonton at 427-2171.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

October 4, 1993

Contact: C.D. Radke 427-2145
Scott Reid 427-2121
Bard Haddrell 427-2127

NOV - 1 1993

Priced publications available through district offices

Starting October 1 farmers and consumers can begin buying 19 of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's technical publications.

Four of the titles had previously been sold. The list has expanded to 19 following a commitment in the provincial government's May 6th budget. Fees for various publications were identified as a means of reducing the deficit by raising revenue to cover their cost of production.

"Albertans have strongly supported reducing government costs. At the same time, the farming community, the agriculture industry and consumers have also indicated they find our department's publications very useful," says C.D. (Doug) Radke, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's deputy minister.

"As a result, we've decided to begin charging for some publications to cover costs as much as possible. The fees are to recoup publishing and distribution costs, so this valuable service can continue.

"Selling publications isn't something new," Radke adds. "But this development marks a move to expand user fees for agricultural services, something Canada lags behind other countries in doing."

The United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have charged for technical publications for many years. "For instance, the U.S. experience with priced publications," he notes, "has allowed them to sustain the service with the additional benefits of broader content and increased publication quality."

All 19 of the publications (see list on page two) will be available through Alberta Agriculture district offices as well as the department's publications office in Edmonton. Previously, priced publications were only available through the Edmonton office.

"For the time being, most of the currently available technical publications will remain free-of-charge, but as older publications are revised and new ones are issued, they will be priced," says Radke.

Currently Alberta Agriculture handles over 1,100 different publications on subjects ranging from general agriculture through to specifics of production, farm business management and home economics.

Beef stabilization program ends December 31

The National Tripartite Stabilization Program (NTSP) for beef cattle will end two years early on December 31, 1993.

The eight participating provinces and the federal government agreed to discontinue the program before its scheduled finish of December 31, 1995. The decision resulted from consultations with the industry over the past year in Alberta and across Canada.

Several organizations, including the Canadian Cattlemens' Association and the Alberta Cattle Commission, requested the program's end.

Cont'd on page 3

This Week

Priced publications available through district offices 1
Beef stabilization program ends December 31 1
Fall soil test for nitrogen 3
Dos and don'ts of fall seeding forages 3
Extensive farm business management training planned 4
Volunteers help Public Lands battle purple loosestrife 4
Sustainable agriculture resource centre at ag library 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Priced Publications - October 1, 1993

TITLE	FEE ($)
Prior to October 1, 1993	
Corrals for Handling Beef Cattle *(New publication August 1993 -sold only by the Publishing Branch until October)*	10.00
Methods of Investigating Predation of Livestock	8.00
Recognizing Herbicide Action and Injury	8.00
Weeds of Alberta	15.00
Starting October 1, 1993	
Alberta Forage Manual	10.00
Beef Cow-Calf Manual	10.00
Farm Workshops	5.00
Hobby Greenhouses in Alberta	8.00
Home Vegetable Storage	3.00
Judging Standards for Food, Sewing and Handicrafts	5.00
Judging Standards for Horticultural Shows	8.00
Landscaping Alberta Yards	3.00
Leasing Cropland in Alberta	5.00
On Farm Grain Handling and Storage *(Temporarily out of print)*	8.00
Pesticide Application Equipment	10.00
Practical Crop Protection - **NEW**	10.00
Prevention and Control of Coyote Predation	5.00
Pruning in Alberta	3.00
Raising Meat Rabbits in Alberta	5.00
Starting with 1994 Editions	
Alberta Horticultural Guide *(1994 edition)*	3.00
Crop Protection with Chemicals *(1994 edition)*	10.00
Custom Rates Survey Summary *(1994 edition)*	3.00
Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates *(1994 edition)*	3.00

(These prices don't include G.S.T. or shipping and handling charges if the request is by mail. For more information write: Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or FAX (403) 427-2861.)

Producers enrolled in the beef tripartite stabilization programs were mailed detailed information on the program's conclusion.

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister, made the announcement in late September. "Alberta's cattle industry took a lead role in seeking the amendments necessary to terminate the NTSP for beef," he says. "Producer organizations have told us that the NTSP for beef has served the industry well, but it's time to make changes that reflect the current market realities and the new approach to support for agriculture and the food industry.

"This decision is very significant for the beef industry in Alberta. Beef cattle exports to the United States now account for 30 per cent of production," he adds. "Termination of NTSP for beef at this time helps protect important trade relations with the U.S. Additionally, this action is another step toward a whole-farm, income support policy."

The NTSP for beef cattle was introduced in 1986 to stabilize producer returns and reduce the risks associated with fluctuating prices and costs. Producers, the federal government and provincial governments contributed premiums that were deposited into national accounts. Payments were made to producers when cash margins fell below long-term averages.

Producer groups and government are currently looking at options for a transition program until a whole-farm, non-commodity specific approach can be implemented.

Contact: Ken Moholitny 422-9167
Dwight Dibben 427-2137

Fall soil test for nitrogen

Excellent crop growth during 1993, particularly in southern Alberta, may mean higher than normal nutrient removal from fields says an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist.

"I speculate that about 80 per cent of 1993 stubble fields probably have less than 25 lb. of nitrogen per acre in the top 12 inches of soil," says Ross McKenzie of the soil and crop management branch.

"I advise farmers to soil test their fields to determine the nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrient levels. Soil sampling during October is the only way to determine soil nutrient levels," he adds.

Fall soil sampling is one way to get a jump on fertilizer decisions notes McKenzie. Spring and fall soil sampling usually don't differ, so fall tests give farmers more time to analyze their fertilizer requirements.

If producers feel they don't have time to sample all fields, they should consider sampling three or four of their representative fields recommends McKenzie. "That's especially important for producers who'd thought of reducing fertilizer inputs next year. Nitrogen reserves might not be adequate, especially in stubble fields. So, higher nitrogen fertilizer rates would be needed to maintain crop production next year."

Soil testing must be done carefully to avoid unreliable results and then questionable recommendations. Between 15 and 20 core samples are needed from each field. Take samples from three depths: zero to six inches; six to 12 inches; and, 12 to 24 inches. Spread samples on a clean sheet of plastic. When dry, send it to a laboratory for testing. Take time to fill out the information sheet with previous crop, previous fertilizer and special management problems.

"With accurate soil test information, producers can make informed decisions about fertilizer management strategies for the 1994 crop year," says McKenzie. "This may include fall fertilization."

For more information, contact McKenzie in Lethbridge at 381-5126, Len Kryzanowski in Edmonton at 427-6362, any regional soil or crop specialist or your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Dr. Ross McKenzie 381-5126
Len Kryzanowski 427-6361

Dos and don'ts of fall seeding forages

Fall seeding forages is an especially useful technique on land too wet or too dry to seed in the spring says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Seeding needs to be in the late fall when germination is unlikely," says Myron Bjorge, supervisor of forage crops at the Fields Crops Development Centre in Lacombe. Forages will germinate at soil temperatures just above freezing.

"To ensure germination doesn't start in the fall, seeding must be done late enough that warm weather is unlikely. So freezing temperatures should be occurring at least every second night," says Bjorge. "This is about the end of October in north and central Alberta and later in southern Alberta."

Bjorge recommends controlling perennial weeds and fall-germinating annual weeds before seeding. Summerfallow and cultivated or uncultivated cereal stubble make good fall seed beds. Normal to slightly more than normal seeding rates are adequate. Plant forage seeds approximately 1/4 to 3/4 of an inch deep. Adequate soil cover insulates the seed against freezing during the early germination stages.

"While there are advantages to fall-seeding such as using lowland and increasing the chance of good moisture in dry locations, fall-seeding also has risks," he adds.

Early spring germination followed by cold weather can kill seedlings. Fall-seeding sweet clover is less successful than other legumes. Low legume rhizobia survival on overwintered seeds is a disadvantage and limits the usefulness of legumes. Use a dry rhizobia inoculant in a pest base or a pre-inoculated coated seed to improve rhizobia survival.

"However," he notes, "legume inoculation is superior from spring seeding."

Soil crusting, which prevents seedling emergence, is a potential problem on low organic matter soils. Weeds—both spring

Cont'd on page 4

emergence and annual weeds such as stinkweed—are also a problem.

For more information on fall-seeding forages, contact Bjorge in Lacombe at 782-4641.

Contact: *Myron Bjorge*
782-4641

Extensive farm business management training planned

After harvest winds down, a wide variety of practical farm business management training programs will wind-up across the province.

Alberta farm families will be offered a wide variety of business management training programs this fall and winter through the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI).

Alberta Agriculture, the four agricultural colleges in the province and private sector firms will be providing in-depth courses, short seminars and one-on-one on-farm consulting.

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"Farm families will also have the option of learning at home in several of the training projects," says Anita Lunden, FBMI provincial co-ordinator.

In late October local radio stations and weekly newspapers across Alberta will feature information on dates and locations of programs. Alberta Agriculture district offices will have information on local courses and listings of all activities in the province.

Over 100 courses have been designed and approved for funding. They will be offered in communities across the province. Last year over 4,000 farm families took advantage of FBMI courses and consulting programs. "We're expecting numbers to increase this year," notes Lunden.

The range of program topics includes developing marketing plans and strategies; how to access and monitor a farm financial situation; using computers effectively in making management decisions; strategic planning; and, estate planning.

"Sound management is vital to success of the farm today," she adds. "The practical management courses, soon to be launched, will help equip our agriculture producers to make effective management decisions."

FBMI activities are distinguished by a grey and green, triangular logo. (See previous column for logo in black and white.) The logo is a symbol of quality in farm management training.

This is the second year of this cost-shared program between the federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada department and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Contact: *Anita Lunden*
556-4240

Volunteers help Public Lands battle purple loosestrife

Controlling nearly five acres of a weed doesn't sound like a big job, but it is if that noxious weed is purple loosestrife on a public shoreline.

Alberta's largest purple loosestrife infestation is five acres of bed and shore along Wabamun Lake, west of Edmonton. Public Lands is responsible for controlling the weed on this publicly owned area.

"Because the infestation is so large digging out individual weeds is impossible, so our management strategy is to clip seedheads annually," says Gerry Haekel, a shoreline management co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture's public land management branch.

"This reduces the number of seeds entering the seedbank," he adds. "It doesn't eradicate the weed, but it does appear to be keeping the infestation in check as well as educating concerned citizens about the problem."

Some of those concerned citizens clipped seedheads along the Wabamun Lake shoreline last month. Five area villagers and volunteers from the County of Parkland and the Canadian Wildlife Service joined Public Lands staff to form the work crew.

Volunteers can play a significant part of controlling purple loosestrife along public shorelines in the future adds Donna Lawrence, also of the public lands management branch. "More and more we're seeing volunteerism as a good way to involve people in the whole public land stewardship ethic. The land, and in this case the public shoreline, belongs to all of us and we're all responsible for taking care of it," she says.

Public shorelines are one of the areas purple loosestrife can appear. It can be found in wetland areas including dugouts, sloughs, lakes and flowing water systems such as rivers and creeks. Not native to North American, purple loosestrife was introduced in the 1800s.

With winter hardiness and a lack of serious pest problems, the weed will completely take over a wetland area destroying the habitat. The weed grows between three and six feet high and has a long pink/purple spike of flowers that bloom from June through September. These qualities have earned it the reputation of "beautiful killer".

Purple loosestrife was designated a noxious weed in 1992 and as such is regulated through the provincial Weed Control Act.

More than 25 loosestrife infestations have been identified in Alberta. They range from a few plants to the five-acre Wabamun Lake site.

Any sightings of purple loosestrife on a public shoreline or other wetland area should be reported. Please call your local Public Lands fields office, Haekel or Lawrence in Edmonton at 427-5570, or Shaffeek Ali at 427-7098.

Contact:	*Gerry Haekel* *427-5570* *Shaffeek Ali* *427-7098*	*Donna Lawrence* *427-5570*

Sustainable agriculture resource centre at ag library

Alberta Agriculture's library now boasts a sustainable agriculture resource centre.

About a year ago the Sustainable Agriculture Association approached the department about assuming responsibility for their library. "Our membership was concerned that because the association doesn't have a regular office, there was a lack of access to our library resources," says Raphaël Thierrin, vice-president of the provincial Sustainable Agriculture Association.

"Now, as well as being open to department staff, the resource centre is also available to association members and the public," adds Rob Bateman, head of library services.

"This is somewhat of a departure for our library which is primarily for staff," he adds. "It's also the first partnership we've developed with the private sector."

The numerous books, periodicals and other publications the library already had were integrated with the association's contribution. The new resource centre now boasts nearly 400 books and reports along with hundreds of volumes of periodicals. These materials cover the subjects of organic farming, organic food, alternative farming methods and environmental issues.

Bateman has prepared a bibliography listing most of the resource's materials. The bibliographies will be distributed to Alberta Agriculture staff and association members. They are also available on request.

Part of the centre is in a permanent display case. It features an assortment of periodicals—magazines and newsletters—that are part of the library's general collection and are listed in the resource centre's bibliography.

"The resource centre display also has information on the association. As well, books and reports are separated from the general library collection for easier identification and access," notes Bateman.

Alberta Agriculture's departmental library is open from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. It is located on the main floor of the J.G. O'Donoghue building, the department's headquarters, at 7000-113 Street in Edmonton.

The Sustainable Agriculture Association is a non-profit society operating in Alberta to promote the use of low input and organic techniques for food production. Its membership includes both growers and consumers. The association arranges workshops and information meetings, and conducts farm tours. The association is also authorized to certify organic producers according to standards, does market development and acts as an advocate on environmental issues that affect agriculture.

For more information on the association, write Box 1181, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2K9, call Thierrin at 686-3310 or Dwayne Smith, association president at 485-6461 in Vulcan.

Contact:	*Rob Bateman* *422-1305*	*Raphaël Thierrin* *686-3310*

Agri-News briefs

Clearing up chamomile and tansy confusion

German chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*) is the type of herb you can grow in your garden says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "Scentless chamomile is a restricted weed in this province," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "However, anyone who wants to grow the herb can grow the German variety safely," she adds. Barkley also says tansy is best harvested from the wild rather than culturing it in a herb garden. "Tansy is also a problem weed," she notes. For more information on growing herbs, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Nominations open for Stock Growers' directors

Nominations close for six director positions with the Western Stock Growers' Association on October 29. Two director-at-large positions and directors for zones four, five, seven and 10 are open. Nominations must be received by the association by 5 p.m. on October 29. The association's address is Suite 101, 2119-27 Avenue N.E., Calgary, T2E 7A6. Directors not acclaimed will be elected by ballot mailed to members with the November newsletter. Results will be announced at the association's annual convention December 1 and 2 in Calgary. For more information, contact the association office in Calgary at 250-9121.

Skaters pair up with beef

Canada's world champion pairs figure skaters are the newest athletes promoting beef. Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler will begin appearing in advertisements this month. The campaign allows the Beef Information Centre (BIC) to focus on women athletes and strengthen the point beef is suitable for slim young women. For the 95-pound Brasseur, it's critical to keep her energy up and weight down. Both athletes have eaten beef all their lives and continue to eat beef six to seven times a week. Television ads will have two different messages; one on calories and iron and the other on beef's important nutrients. Taste appeal will be a common element. French market advertisement is expected to improve with Quebecer Brasseur in the campaign. The highly successful Mark Tewksbury beef ads will continue to air until the end of December. For more information, contact the BIC in Toronto at (416)766-6146.

Provincial distinction awards at Westerner Dairy Showcase

Four people will be honored with Provincial Dairy Awards of Distinction during the Westerner Dairy Showcase. Award winners will be honored during the two-day event November 2 and 3. They will receive plaques for their significant contributions to the dairy industry at a banquet on November 3. Wesley Harke of Leduc, a life member of the Alberta Dairymen's Association, remains active in the dairy industry and his community after retiring in 1987. Also now retired, Ernie and Rosemary Naegeli of Rimbey came to Alberta from Switzerland in 1955. In 1975 they were honored with the first NIP cow to be classified "excellent" in Alberta and have received regional and provincial dairy farm beautification awards. John Vanbrunschot of Olds started dairying in 1966. His Ramada Dairy Cattle Sales company has exported cattle to the Pacific Rim, South America, Europe and North America. For more information, contact Shannon Whitehead, Westerner events co-ordinator, in Red Deer at 343-7800.

Variety of ag short courses at Lakeland College through November

A number of agricultural short courses will be held at the Vermilion campus of Lakeland College through October, November and December. They are: showmanship and grooming beef cattle, October 23; beef and dairy cattle hoof trimming, November 6-7; sheep shearing, November 13-14; beef and dairy cattle artificial insemination short course, November 22-26; farm air conditioner system maintenance, November 17-19; farm hydraulic system maintenance, November 23-26; basic farm welding, November 29-December 3; and, advanced farm welding, December 6-10. For more information on the livestock short courses, contact Chris Spasoff in Vermilion at 853-8566. For more information on the equipment short courses, contact Christina Arvidsson at 853-8623.

Phone: (403) 427-212

AGRI-NEWS

October 11, 1993

Steady calf prices after initial volume drop

Increasing volumes are expected to pressure calf prices in October, but prices are expected to hold steady after the initial fall says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"An initial decline of between five and 10 cents on 500 to 600 pound steers is expected," says Ron Gietz. "After that, calf prices should be steady through the late fall.

"But, keep in mind buyers will probably be pickier on the tail end of the calf run," he adds.

The calf run started strongly in late September. Prices were high, sometimes at record levels. Many producers attempted to cash-in on the high prices he notes.

In the feeder cattle market, cheap grain has been an important factor. Both silage and feedgrain supplies are ample. "Combined with low interest rates, finishing cattle on the Prairies is at a very reasonable cost," says Gietz.

He adds though, further increases in feeder cattle prices seem unlikely. "Bear in mind, I said the same thing this spring, but prices increased. Be aware too, the end of the national tripartite stabilization program could be a factor in fourth quarter markets."

The Canada/U.S. exchange rate will continue to be a factor in both feeder and fed cattle prices. "The key variable in the Western Canadian slaughter cattle outlook is the exchange rate," he says.

At the start of the federal election campaign the exchange rate was extremely volatile, although mostly around the 76 cent U.S. level. Future exchange rates are impossible to predict Gietz adds. However, he bases his forecasts for average slaughter cattle prices on a strengthening dollar from November on.

His six-month look ahead is for Alberta direct sale steers at $88/cwt. through October, up to $89/cwt. in November, falling back to $88 in December and inching to the $89/cwt. mark to start 1994. Gietz predicts February and March average prices at $91/cwt.

"These forecasts could be on the low side if the Canadian dollar stays weak," he adds.

On the U.S. side of the border, September fed cattle prices created substantial losses for American feedlots. This negative market factor encourages delayed marketings and extra weight gains. Gietz says U.S. prices will remain pressured by these heavy carcass weights and year-over-year increases in production.

"Gradual price recovery is more likely than a swift recovery," he says. By late winter, U.S. fed cattle prices could climb back to the $77/cwt. level based on seasonal production declines.

"But only a repeat of last winter's pattern of weekly snow storms would bring a return to $80-plus fed cattle in the American market," he adds.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

This Week

Steady calf prices after initial volume drop 1
Frost adds more feed wheat to market 2
Move ahead with Farm Financial Advisory Service 2
Market gardeners overwhelmed by demand 2
Horticultural congress grows for tomorrow 3
Snowmelt flooding and forages work well together 3
Mission accomplishable with thought, strategy 4
Like it or not, fall yard work is here 5
Rural caterer's update returns November 3 5
Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
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Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Frost adds more feed wheat to market

The consequence of a general frost in Alberta the second of week of September will be more feed grain on a glutted market says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"There won't be accurate numbers until a significant amount of the crop starts coming off," says Larry Ruud. "Early estimates suggest about 20 per cent of the wheat crop will grade feed. While this is below last year's totals, it's still well above the long-term average of 10 to 15 per cent."

If the 20 per cent estimate proves true, another 5.4 million tonnes of feed wheat will be added to an already burdened feed market. "This isn't good news for anyone trying to sell wheat into this end of the market," he adds. "There's enough feedgrain carryover for nearly half a year, so I don't see relief in sight for this market."

Feedgrain prices backed off during September he notes. Western barley futures lost around $3 per tonne. Cash bids dropped by $5 to $10 per tonne.

"Prospects of a large crop along with a lot of uncertainty about the barley market—continental or not—have weighed down prices," says Ruud.

Western barley futures were trading around $84 per tonne in late September. Ruud says they have the potential to fall to $75 per tonne, but he says he doesn't see prices falling below this level.

"In the cash market this would provide a $5 to $10 per tonne premium to the Canadian Wheat Board initial payment in central and north central regions of Alberta," he notes.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Move ahead with Farm Financial Advisory Service

A financial advisor sounds like the first person a major lottery winner hires—someone expensive that keeps the money rolling in.

"The Farm Financial Advisory Service is relatively inexpensive and will do the same thing for a farm business," says Anita Lunden, provincial co-ordinator of the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI).

For $100 participants receive up to five full days of consulting from a practicing farmer trained in financial management. "This is a bargain, because the $100 covers about 10 per cent of the fee with the balance picked up by FBMI," notes Lunden.

The program can help farmers with a number of financial management areas. They include preparing financial statements, identifying business strengths and problem areas, identifying alternatives to improve cash flow and helping prepare proposals for lenders.

"Planning is really the emphasis," says Lunden. "Financial management is planning to improve profits, to expand the business, to get better financing, to start another enterprize and to blueprint the future of your business.

"There are some appealing advantages to the program," she adds. "It is independent and confidential. Your advisor is an experienced farmer who also has financial management training and experience. None of the advice is binding. It's up to the producer to carry out the plan."

The service is available to all farmers who want financial advice. To apply for the program, contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district or regional office.

"Department staff will discuss the program with you, explain it and talk about your needs. A suitable advisor will be selected and then make arrangements to visit you on your farm," says Lunden.

Contact: Anita Lunden
556-4240

Market gardeners overwhelmed by demand

Alberta's market gardeners had a banner year with potatoes, carrots and cole crops, all crops that thrive in a cool, wet summer.

"Banner year or not, however, many growers are reporting that demand for locally produced vegetables and fruit is so high they simply can't produce enough," says Lloyd Hausher of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"Strawberry, raspberry and saskatoon producers had one of their best years in some time, and most producers already have a customer waiting list for next year," says the fruit specialist.

Vern Bretin, an Edmonton area director of the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, adds although there are more market gardeners in the Edmonton area than anywhere else in the province, "there's still an urgent need for growers interested in marketing top quality produce to a city who has decided that fresh is best."

The Alberta Market Gardeners Association, one of the partners in the annual Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show, hosts an information booth at the trade show. It also offers anyone interested in market gardening a chance to get information at the congress November 4 through 6. The congress and trade show run November 4 through 6 at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

"The congress is an opportunity to hear successful, innovative growers speak about their operation and horticulture and marketing researchers report on their work," says Hausher. "As well, prospective growers can meet people in the business and get a personal view of what the business is all about."

The association, with over 150 growers members, holds its annual meeting November 5 during the congress. Anyone interested in the industry is welcome to attend. They'll hear about both the association's past promotional and education activities as well as plans for the coming season's courses, seminars and market strategies.

Con't on page 3

For more information about the Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show or the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, producers and prospective producers can contact Hausher by writing him at Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, SS4, Brooks, Alberta, T1R 1E6, or by calling him at 362-3391.

Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

Horticultural congress grows for tomorrow

Alberta's horticultural industry has set its sights on growing for tomorrow at its annual congress and trade show in Edmonton November 5 through 7.

"Commercial vegetable, flower and fruit growers will update themselves and discuss the future of their industry through the congress technical sessions, tours, trade show and association meetings," says Abraham van der Breggen, the Alberta Horticulture Congress chair.

Mark Cullen headlines the 1993 Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show as feature speaker. Cullen, president of Weall and Cullen Nurseries in Ontario, is well known for his Canada AM television appearances and his monthly column in **Canadian Living** magazine. He'll discuss where customers are, where they're heading and what the industry needs to know and do to meet the demands made on producers and retailers.

Other popular speakers on the congress line-up include a number of researchers from across Canada. They are Bill Straver, Jim Portree, Janice Deremiens and Gerald Ivanockho.

More than 40 experts will present a complete range of horticultural topics from research reviews to marketing products. Session topics include companion planting; management, harvest and marketing of wild berries; basic bedding plant production; stretching your marketing season; water gardens; designing advertising and signs; and, establishing displays that sell.

Congress participants not only will get the local angle, but also a global one. Gerritt Bergwerff, a buyer with one of Holland's biggest wholesale houses, will discuss buying and marketing fruit, flowers and vegetables on the world market. His company's slogan is: "If we are the best, we will get the business. If we are not, then we don't deserve it".

The trade show is Alberta's largest ever. For the first time, the congress has joined with the Landscape and Nursery Trades Association. The sold-out trade show features more than 165 exhibitors.

Tours are another congress element. In 1993 the Devonian Botanical Gardens and the Andrew Wolf Winery are among the tour destinations.

All five sponsoring associations will hold producer meetings. They are the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta, the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board and Flowers Canada (Alberta region).

Registration before October 15 is $85 per person. After October 15 registration is $150 per person. Daily rates are $60 for Thursday and Friday and $35 for Saturday. Student rates are also available.

For more information on the congress and trade show, contact Simone Demers Collins in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Simone Demers Collins
422-1789

Snowmelt flooding and forages work well together

While farmers in the middle of harvest may not want to hear about snow, some farmers near Leduc will be looking at their fall soil moisture and planning for next year's snowmelt.

Gerald and Marvin Pohl along with their neighbor, Steve Moen, can now use snowmelt to flood irrigate 54 acres of grass hayland. Fall soil moisture is one of the keys to their decision whether a spring backflood is needed and how long the floods should last says Neil MacAlpine, an Alberta Agriculture farm water management engineer.

MacAlpine was one of three Alberta Agriculture specialists involved in the four-year study on the Pohls' project. The County of Leduc's Agricultural Service Board, another project partner, ran forage plots in the area starting in 1990.

While snowmelt for flood irrigation is a novelty in central Alberta, spring backflood irrigation is a long time practice in the Manyberries area of southern Alberta. The Leduc project started as an on-farm demonstration to examine both the on and off-farm benefits of spring backflood in central Alberta.

"We learned lessons along the way, from the difference between dry and normal snowmelt years to the forages best suited to the area," says MacAlpine. "Our final conclusion is that the project benefits the neighbors as well as providing additional forage for the farm."

The Pohls wanted better quality forages for their dairy and cow-calf operation from the 54 acres of wet meadow. With the co-operation of Steve Moen, they set about improving its drainage and water control. However, a normal snowmelt in 1989 after years of drought taught everyone a lesson about the dangers of simplistic drainage.

MacAlpine explains. "Marvin and Gerald had every intention of controlling the runoff, but the control structure was to be built in later that summer. We learned that the normal course of events was for the snowmelt to fill the 54 acres while the ravine downstream acted like a snow filled dam.

Con't on page 4

"However, when the snow got soft, 54 acres of water broke loose and drained in less 5 hours. Downstream, homes built next to the creek during the dry 1980s were nearly flooded."

Convinced that they had to control the snowmelt on their own land for their neighbors' benefit as well for their own, the Pohls constructed a small dam on the ravine with a culvert and a slidegate to control when and how fast the snowmelt was drained.

Elmer Bittner, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturalist at Leduc, directed forage plots in both an upland area and the backflood area starting in 1990.

"Creeping foxtail and reed canary grass performed the best in the backflood plots because they compete strongly with other grasses," says Bittner. "Surprisingly, bromegrass consistently out-performed timothy in early growth after the flood water was removed. Only the creeping foxtail showed more early growth. A first cut of hay was ready by the end of May.

"In particular," he adds, "the forage plots showed how important it is to control re-emergence of native grasses if production is geared to tame forages."

Typical foxtail and canary grass yields averaged 3.5 tons per acre on the flood-irrigated area. Based on the plot results, the Pohls seeded the backflood area to a mixture of Carlton bromegrass (12 per cent), Timfor timothy (12.5 per cent) and meadow foxtail (75 per cent) in 1992.

The project's economics are positive too, notes Bittner. On-farm benefits were 1.6 times larger than on-farm costs. When the off-farm benefits and costs were added in, benefits jumped to over three times the overall costs of the project.

"The flood protection from controlling the snowmelt on-farm is a far better alternative for the downstream acreage owners, than building a big ditch through their acreages to carry the flood flows," says MacAlpine. Building the spring backflood irrigation project cost about the same as building a major ditch through the acreages. Projected costs for the latter were $23,000. The Pohls built their dam, culvert and slidegate for less.

Wildlife use of the backflood area has been affected as the area had no agricultural use before the project. "However," notes MacAlpine, "the spring staging value for waterfowl has been retained with the spring flood. As one of the earliest open water areas in the County of Leduc, numerous geese, swans and ducks rest on the backflood in the early spring."

The four-year demonstration was funded by the Canada/Alberta Research and Technology Transfer program (CARTT) and Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future (FFF) program as an on-farm demonstration.

For more information on the Golden Glow spring blackflood project, contact MacAlpine in Edmonton at 422-6530 or Bittner in Leduc at 986-8985.

Contact:	*Elmer Bittner* *986-8985*	*Neil MacAlpine* *422-6530*

Mission accomplishable with thought, strategy

Friends and neighbors are curious about the decoratively framed piece of paper hanging in Diane and Fernand Dargis' farm office.

It's not a diploma, map or wise saying—it's their farm's mission statement. It says who they are as a family business and what they hope to achieve as operator-managers of their grain and livestock business near St. Paul.

While to many, a mission statement may appear as just words on a piece of paper, to the Dargis' it's much more than it. It represents a lot of thought about what really matters to them as a family and how they will use those values in their farming business.

The St. Paul area couple set their thoughts to paper during a two and half day retreat at the beginning of 1993 as one of five farm couples taking part in a pilot project on strategic planning.

"The project was about applying strategic thinking when making business decisions within the family business," says Doug Barlund, an Alberta Agriculture specialist at the farm business management branch in Olds.

"This is what's labelled as strategic thinking because you remind yourself to focus on your desired end-results and then work backwards to formulate strategies that will help you achieve your goals," he adds.

Since spending the time thinking strategically and then writing their mission statement the Dargis' say they feel much more assured about the direction they are moving their farm business.

"It is surprising how many times a day we mentally refer back to our mission statement and ask ourselves if the decision we are about to make will move us closer to our long-term goals," says Diane. "We certainly don't check our mission statement every morning to decide what we will do that day, but we do realize the thinking and talking we did before writing the statement is embedded in our minds and does influence how we make decisions."

Planning is critical part of farm management notes Barlund. It's one of five of the key functions along with organizing, staffing, directing and controlling.

"While strategic planning may sound like the latest buzz word, it isn't just the latest fad," he adds. "Strategic planning is a systematic way of thinking backward from where you want the business to be and deciding how you'll move it to the ideal future from where it's at now. Essentially, it's answering the questions—where are we going, where are we now, how do we get where we want to go and how will we know when we've arrived."

Thinking about and discussing those questions in order to write a mission statement is one way to convert ideas into something concrete says Barlund. "Individuals and organizations usually get excited and creative about planning, then fail to carry out their plans. In our sessions we hope to show farm businesses how not

Con't on page 5

to fall into that trap of just planning, but not taking the little, measurable steps that move to the big overall goal.

"Planning has to go to the specific how-tos, or strategies, that you can measure, that have a deadline and that are assigned to someone to get done.

"It's also a matter of focus. At the heart of getting what you want is being committed to the vision of what your business could be, and having the flexibility to adjust your action steps and strategies when things tell you you're drifting off-course from your long-range target," he adds.

Barlund, who is based at the farm business management branch in Olds, is currently working with Alberta Agriculture district staff to put together a sequel to the pilot held in January 1993 and further strategic planning sessions. He can be reached in Olds at 556-4245.

Contact: Doug Barlund
556-4245

Like it or not, fall yard work is here

Winter may be the only season you aren't busy in your yard says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Fall is a busy time getting ready for winter from preserving your garden produce to preparing for next spring by planting bulbs and doing an annual yard clean-up," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"Clean-up is a good place to start," she adds. Remove dead plant material from the garden and annual beds. Compost it if it's disease-free. Perennial tops can be cut off or left standing. "There's an advantage for both. Removing the tops helps prevent overwintering diseases and insects. But, leaving the tops holds snow cover," she notes. "An alternative is using a mulch of clean material—a mix of straw, dry grass and leaves or wood chips."

There's no choice with peonies and iris, she adds, both should be cut back to prevent disease.

Raking leaves shouldn't be ignored she adds. "Raking tidies the yard and removes overwintering sites for many insects and diseases."

Follow clean-up by digging over the garden and annual flower beds with a spade. This improves soil texture. Dig a full spade depth and leave the lumps. Frost action breaks down the lumps over the winter. Digging over also exposes some overwintering insects to the elements.

Mulching is another component of fall yard care, especially for your strawberry patch and roses. Mulch a strawberry patch when the temperature drops to -7°C and stays there for three or four nights. Good soil moisture is necessary before applying a mulch. Use straw or a dried grass and leaves mixture for the mulch. The ideal depth is five cm after the mulch settles. Lightly water the strawberry patch to hold the mulch in place.

"Mice can shelter in a mulch, so watch for them. You can treat the area with bait before putting down the mulch," says Barkley.

While roses need insulation from winter cold, winterizing tender and semi-tender roses starts in the summer. Stop fertilizing plants at the end of July. In August, cut shorter stems when harvesting roses. From the beginning of September reduce water, but don't let the plants dry out.

Several hard frosts are needed before putting winter insulation in place. First, water the rose bed well to prevent roots from drying out. Head back canes to between 20 and 25 cm. Scatter mouse bait around the canes and follow with about cm of insulating material, or mulch, around the canes and crowns. Dry grass, peat moss, compost and soil all work as insulation. Barkley advises not to pack the material tightly.

Barkley also recommends adding to the natural snow cover. "Shovel snow on the plant as another layer of insulation. This is especially important if the roses are in a southern exposure."

Water is another important part of fall care. All perennials, trees, shrubs and fruiting plants need a moisture reserve in their root zone. "Providing water in the fall ensures there's a reserve next spring for plants to draw from and it prevents root damage during the winter," says Barkley.

Watering should be done about mid-October or just before the ground freezes. Fill the soil profile with water by letting a small stream flow for several hours at the base of trees. Raspberries should also be watered well in the late fall after their leaves have dropped.

Fall is also a good time to control weeds in your lawn. "Chemicals applied on a warm day, early in the fall will control dandelions, chickweed and clover," she says.

As well, keep mowing the lawn as long as it continues to grow. Lawn should be five cm long to go into winter. Higher lengths can cause damage to plant crowns.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Rural caterer's update returns November 3

Engineering gets a new meaning at a rural caterer's update November 3 in Stony Plain.

"Menu engineering is a feature topic," say Kerry Engel, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Westlock and one of the update organizations.

"The speaker is Gail Hall of Gourmet Goodies," adds Engel, "She's back by popular demand from our first workshop last year." Hall will share her ideas on planning, pricing and promoting menus.

The workshop itself is also returning because of interest it generated in 1992 she adds. "Caterers are very visible entrepreneurs in many rural communities. This workshop is a

Con't on page 6

learning experience as well as an opportunity to meet and talk with peers so they can 'get together to get ahead'."

Workshop space is limited to 45 people. Registration closes on November 1.

A gourmet adventure in Alberta food products with Norman Campbell is another of the day's sessions. Campbell, co-owner of Normand's Restaurant in Edmonton, will provide a visual and sensory treat as he prepares a number of dishes using Alberta meats.

Participants will also learn knife secrets from chef Ken Bezuko. Bezuko will teach how and when to use the proper knife, cutting techniques and how to increase yield.

The workshop will open with a "tablescapes" demonstration. Julie Coleman will display table fashions and napkin folding techniques. Coleman co-owns a home-based business specializing in placemats, napkins and table runners. There will also be a special feature display by the Alberta Barley Commission.

The $25 registration fee includes supplies and lunch at the Victorian Tea House in Spruce Grove. For more information, contact Engel in Westlock at 349-4465 or Gail Lemke in Stony Plain at 963-6101.

Contact:	*Kerry Engel*	*Gail Lemke*
	349-4465	*963-6101*

Agri-News briefs

Top quality lentil prices rise

September brought a sharp rise in the price of top quality lentils says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. In mid-August lentil prices were about 14 cents per pound to the grower. By late September cash bids were at the 23 to 25 cents. "Reports at the end of the month indicate a very poor quality crop and, in all likelihood, a much smaller one than was expected in late August," says Al Dooley. Price spread between grades are larger than usual. The premium for a number one over a number two grade was at eight cents per pound. The spread is usually close to two cents. Flood damage to the Manitoba crop was very significant. "Number one quality lentils will be hard to find there and also in most other parts of the Prairies," says Dooley. "Here in Alberta it look like the best quality lentils will be found in the east central part of the province." For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Canadian wheat exports drop in '92-'93 crop year

Canadian wheat exports for the crop year that ended on July 31, 1993 were significantly below the previous year's. "Lack of Russian business and a competitive milling and feed market worked to lower exports last year," says Larry Ruud of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis and statistics branch. As a result, carryover stocks are up substantially. Statistics Canada estimates carryover stocks at 12.23 million tonnes up two million tonnes over figures for the last two years. An estimated 4.63 million tonnes is on-farm and most of this on-farm carryover is likely feed wheat. "The export market is still weak," adds Ruud. "It's plagued by lack of Russian and Chinese business. Another wild card is whether the U.S. will implement quotas on Canadian wheat exports." For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Hot topics at farm tax professionals update

Current hot agricultural tax issues are one of the agenda items at a series of agriculture tax updates for professionals between October 26 and November 4. The one-day workshops are designed for accountants and lawyers. Each workshop opens with a look at hot issues. These include NISA versus VAISA, other new programs, changes in agriculture and client profiles. Concurrent sessions will focus on either partnerships or corporations. Workshops will be held in Medicine Hat on October 26, Calgary on October 27, Lloydminster on October 28, Grande Prairie on November 2, Edmonton on November 3 and Red Deer on November 4. Registration includes lunch and a binder of related materials. Binders are available separately after the workshops for $75. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240 or FAX 556-7545.

Saskatoon grower tops pumpkins at Smoky Lake weigh-off

Not only was Rod Goertzen the pumpkin grower from the furthest away, the Saskatoon man also brought the heaviest pumpkin to the fifth annual weigh-off at Smoky Lake earlier this month. Goertzen's 348 pound pumpkin was 100 pounds lighter than the Smoky Lake weigh-off record he set two years ago. However, there were less than ideal growing conditions in 1993. A family affair of Smoky Lake growers were second and third in the competition. Barry Court's pumpkin was 8 pounds and Shannon Court's 297. Smoky Lake growers also topped the watermelon and squash competitions. Other grower-competitors came from as far north as Fort Vermilion and as far south as Vauxhaul. Smoky Lake is one of five Canadian World Pumpkin Confederation weigh-off centres. More than a dozen countries participate world wide. The event is presented by the Smoky Lake Agricultural Society and the local pumpkin growers association in co-operation with a number of sponsors. For more information, contact the Town of Smoky Lake at 565-3674 or the County of Smoky Lake at 656-3730 during the day; or Barry Court at 565-3508 or Larry Lafleur at 656-3539 in the evening.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

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October 18, 1993

Alberta beverage company "cool" in Mexico

Although the North American Free Trade Agreement hasn't been passed, an Alberta beverage company has taken advantage of the agreement's groundwork and has already sold its product into Mexico.

The Vivant Group recently received its first Mexican order for the Calgary company's low alcohol coolers. The order has an export value of about a quarter of a million dollars.

"This sale represents a major breakthrough into the Mexican market," says Elton Dunk, an Alberta Agriculture trade director. "The company has been part of past trade missions. This contact resulted from participation in the National Retailer Associaton Trade Show in Guadalajara and Canadian Solo Food Show in Mexico City.

"As the company's first shipment of a value-added beverage to Mexico, this sale is probably the first of many success stories for Alberta food and beverage companies in Mexico," adds Dunk. "We see Mexico as an expanding market for our province's value-added food and beverage industry."

The company's coolers, Nick's Lite-Alcohol Spirit Coolers, will be marketed to the Mexican food service and retail trade by a Mexican food distribution company.

The cooler line was introduced in Canada in October 1992. It's carried by about 80 per cent of grocery stores in Canada's major consumer markets. Introduction to the U.S. market is planned for late 1993.

Besides the coolers, the Vivant Group's products include Wyder's Cider, Vivant bottled water and San Jose alcohol-free cocktail beverages. The latter two beverages are bottled in Medicine Hat. About 70 per cent of the bottled water is exported outside Canada, mostly to the U.S.

Contact: *Elton Dunk*
427-4241

Fall warble treatment also controls cattle lice

Controlling warbles in the fall also provides good lice control through the winter months says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Producers who regularly treat their cattle for warbles are aware early warble treatment has the added benefit of preventing heavy build-ups of lice during the two coldest months of the year, December and January," says Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist.

There are four ways to apply systemic insecticides in the fall. They are pour-on, spot-on, injectable and high pressure spray. "All four are effective warble controls," notes Khan. "As well, lice infestations will be about two-thirds less."

Control is necessary as both warbles and lice harm cattle in many ways and their reduce market value. These include reduced weight gains, increased abortion frequency, reduced

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Alberta beverage company "cool" in Mexico 1
Fall warble treatment also controls cattle lice 1
Screening pellets can work in cattle rations 2
September harvest weather cool and dry 2
Making the fall fertilizer decision 3
Frosts signal time to dig summer bulbs 3
This year's geraniums can bloom again in '94 4
4-H leaders on quest for quality 4
UK Young Farmer seeing province through 4-H families 5
Briefs 5

Alberta
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weaning weights, reduced breeding ability and direct losses from gadding when adult flies are laying their eggs.

Khan adds warble infestation is under control in Alberta. Many municipalities have active warble control programs. "However," he says, "warbles could easily become a problem again if cattle herds aren't treated annually."

When experimental herds were left untreated, warble infestation increased to 28 per cent from seven per cent of the herd in a three year period. Khan monitored two other untreated herds from fall to spring. One of the untreated herds turned up with 50 per cent warble-infested animals in the spring.

"Most treatments cost under a dollar per head. Since losses can be far greater, there's real benefit in continuing control," he says.

For more information on warble and lice control, contact Khan in Edmonton at 427-5083, your local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or municipal fieldman.

Contact: *Dr. Ali Khan*
427-5083

Screening pellets can work in cattle rations

Screening pellets are a grain substitute producers can use if they lack or have poor quality feed this winter says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Weather has affected hay quality and quantity in some areas. In others, most cereal crops were cut for greenfeed. So, feed grain will be less available," says Barry Yaremcio, ruminant nutritionist.

"But before you go out and buy screening pellets, there are some considerations," he adds.

Pellet quality is the basic concern. There are three classes or grades of screenings. A number one grade is the highest quality. It contains lightweight grain kernels, cracked grain and limited amount of weeds and other foreign material. Number two grade has broken or cracked kernels and higher levels of weed seeds and other contaminants.

"Uncleaned or refuse screening pellets are the lowest quality. They can contain aspirator dust, floor sweepings and almost anything else," notes Yaremcio.

The presence of weed seeds is a major concern. If hulls haven't been cracked or broken, small weed seeds—for example mustards, chamomile and pigweed—will eventually germinate after cattle eat them. Rumen acids and microbes can't digest some hard seedcoats.

"As well, screening pellets can introduce new weeds to your fields even if the manure rots two to three years before you apply it to your soil. So screening pellet quality is definitely a concern," he says.

Another consideration is the type of grains in the screening pellets. Different grains have different fermentation rates. This influences how much screening pellet can be fed per head per day.

A wheat screening pellet has one of the most rapid fermentation rates. If animals aren't given time to adjust to the new ration or if too much is fed, it may result in rumen acidosis, bloat, flounder and even death.

"Barley and oat screenings pellets are digested less rapidly, but animals still need time to adjust to new rations," he adds.

Another factor to weigh when buying screening pellets is the amount of processing that is done before pelleting. Finely ground grains have a more rapid fermentation rate than rolled or coarsely ground grain. This, too, makes acidosis a concern.

Oilseed screenings can contain four to 10 per cent oil. Fibre digestion in the rumen is impaired if the total oil or fat content in the ration is over seven per cent. "The result is impaction and feed intake will drop significantly," says Yaremcio.

A final issue is variation in nutrient content. "There is no guarantee of the percentage of grain in a screening pellet," notes Yaremcio. "Some batches are high quality, while others are mainly dust and hulls."

He recommends testing the screenings or getting a guaranteed analysis from the supplier. As well, he advises not to include screening pellets or other by-product feeds at more than 25 per cent of the ration.

"Before you consider more than 25 per cent of pellets in a ration, consult with a qualified nutritionist," he advises.

The amount of pellets fed also depends on the type of animal, the stage of production (pregnant or lactating cow, size and weight gain of feeder), weather pattern, feed quality in the ration and whether the animal is thin or fat.

"I strongly recommend doing a feed test on the nutrient content of all feeds used in the ration if you're considering pellets. Using screening pellets doesn't guarantee adequate protein in the ration. You may still need a protein supplement," he says.

His final advice is to consult with a nutritionist about appropriate levels of salt, mineral, vitamins and pellets for the total ration to meet the animal's needs. Private laboratories will do feed tests, as will Alberta Agriculture's soil and animal nutrition laboratory.

Contact: *Barry Yaremcio*
427-8906

September harvest weather cool and dry

After a wet summer, dry conditions returned in September providing good harvest weather for most of Alberta says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

Cont'd on page 3

"September's monthly precipitation totals were below normal in most of the Peace and central regions of Alberta," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch. "However, some parts of southern Alberta were wet."

Peace and central regions reported between 10 and 40 mm of precipitation, about 25 to 100 per cent of normal. Sedgewick in central Alberta was one of the dry spots. The town received only nine mm of precipitation during the entire month, about 26 per cent of its normal. On the other hand, Pincher Creek reported 90.2 mm of precipitation, 171 per cent of normal.

The average monthly temperature for the province, based on data from 57 weather stations, was 0.3 degrees colder than the 1951-80 normal of 10.4°C. Most of central Alberta and the Peace region reported above normal temperatures.

"However, below normal temperatures were recorded in regions of southern Alberta where conditions were also wet," notes Dzikowski.

That trend was especially noticeable in Medicine Hat. The average monthly temperature of 11.6°C was two and one half degrees cooler than the 1951 to 1980 long-term average. Some 210 per cent of its normal monthly precipitation of 32.4 mm fell during September.

Sundre recorded the coldest monthly average at 8.4°C, about half a degree cooler than average. Bow Island recorded the warmest average temperature for the month at 12.1°C (about 0.3 degrees cooler than average). Queenstown, south west of Bassano, had the greatest temperature departure from the normal, 1.6°C cooler than the September normal of 11.8°C.

For more information, contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

Making the fall fertilizer decision

If you've tested your soil, fall fertilizing may be an option says an Alberta Agriculture soil fertility specialist.

"With very good soil moisture conditions, soils should work up well with most fertilizer applicators," says Ross McKenzie of the soil and crop management branch.

"As well, plenty of crop residue prevents soil erosion after banding fertilizer," he adds. "And soil conditions are also ideal for fall application of nitrogen fertilizers whether liquid, granular or anhydrous."

McKenzie has a number of rules-of-thumb to consider when fall fertilizing. The first is to soil test to determine the cumulative nitrogen level to a two foot depth.

Next, chose a fertilizer formulation suited to the individual field. Apply a conservative rate of nitrogen fertilizer. "For example," he says, "Seventy-five per cent of the soil test recommendation or 75 per cent of what you expect to apply if you don't get test results in time.

"The conservative application rate is a hedge against such things as high nitrogen test results, low spring moisture and low crop prices. Then, if conditions look favorable in the spring, additional nitrogen can be drilled-in with seed."

McKenzie also notes there are advantages to fall fertilization. It cuts down on work in the busy spring season. Fall-banded nitrogen fertilizer may be more effective than spring banding in preserving spring seedbed moisture. Banding fertilizer in the fall restricts the contact between the soil and fertilizer and reduces overwinter losses.

"I recommend you get several opinions before you make a final decision on a fall fertilizer application program," he adds. "And if you decide not to fertilize this fall, at least do a soil sample."

For more information on soil testing or fall fertilizer application, contact McKenzie in Lethbridge at 381-5126, Len Kryzanowski in Edmonton at 427-6361 or your nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Dr. Ross McKenzie
381-5126

Frosts signal time to dig summer bulbs

Frost not only signals winter's start, it also means it's time to take special care of flowering bulbs says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Common summer flowering bulbs, such as begonias, dahlias and gladiolus, aren't hardy. They must be lifted in the fall and stored indoors over the winter," says Gail Rankin, of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"Each type of bulb requires different treatment," she adds. For example, begonias can be dug up before or after the first frost. Tops should be left intact and as much soil as possible should be left on the tubers. Store in an airy, cool location (12 to 15°C) for about three weeks until stems break off easily from the tubers. Then, clean off the soil and small roots and dust tubers with a fungicide such as captan. For winter storage, place the tubers in vermiculite or peat moss and keep them at 4°C. If they being to shrivel in storage, dampen slightly.

Rankin says it's best to wait until after a frost before digging up gladioli. "This will give them as long a growing season as possible and maximize the corm size."

After digging, cut off the tops close to the corms and spread out in a box or flat to cure in a warm location for two weeks. "When the old corms separate easily from the new ones, it's time to clean them off, remove any soil or loose outer skin," she says.

Store the gladioli corms in open trays or paper bags at between five and 10°C. Before storing, dust with a bulb dust containing captan and malathion.

Cont'd on page 4

"Dahlias require different care. You want to store them for the shortest possible time as they often dry out in storage. Leave them in the ground for as long as possible and lift them out before the ground freezes," she advises.

Start by cutting back the plant to about 10 cm from the soil surface. Dig carefully to avoid breaking the roots and prevent damage to the neck where next year's buds start. After lifting, turn upside down in a sunny location to drain water from the hollow stems.

Keep the bulbs at room temperature until the soil falls off the tubers. Dust with a fungicide and store in slightly moist peat moss or vermiculite. "They need to be in a cool location, between two and seven degrees Celsius. Higher temperatures will encourage sprouting," says Rankin.

She also advises checking the tubers throughout the winter. If they are dry, sprinkle lightly with water.

Contact: Gail Rankin
422-1789

This year's geraniums can bloom again in '94

This year's geraniums can still bloom brightly next summer if you save them says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Geraniums, perennials in their native South Africa, are annuals here. But, they can be saved, stored over winter and used again next year," says Gail Rankin of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

Plants are tender, so must be dug before they are injured by frost she adds. "If you can't dig them in time, at least cover them up and you should still be able to save and overwinter the geraniums."

Once dug up, gardeners can try one of two storing methods. With the soil method, place plants close together in a box or into individual pots. You can cut back the branches to 2.5 cm stubs or leave the plant intact until January when you can take cuttings. Cover with a light potting soil or a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite or perlite. Then place in a cool, dark location at a temperature between four and 7°C.

"The geraniums should be watered before you store them. hen, during the winter, water them only enough to prevent the roots from shrivelling. Do allow the soil to dry out completely between waterings," she says.

The second method doesn't use soil. Instead, shake soil off the geranium roots, then hang the plants upside down in a cool, dry place. "It's important not to cut the tops off in this method," she adds, "and the storage temperature, between four and 7°C, is also critical."

Rankin says the roots can be brought out of storage in late February. "At that time they can be potted in individual containers in a high quality potting soil. Then, place them in a sunny window, preferably one with a southern exposure or under fluorscent lights suspended 30 cm above the plants."

Cuttings can be taken in the fall, or in late January she notes.

For more information on storing geraniums or starting geranium cuttings. contact Rankin in Edmonton at 422-1789.

Contact: Gail Rankin
422-1789

4-H leaders on quest for quality

Fourteen volunteer 4-H leaders from around Alberta are off to Montana and Manitoba this month.

"The 14 will be taking part in two different conferences designed to enhance their leadership skills," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

For the 29th consecutive year Alberta delegates will attend the Montana 4-H Leaders Forum courtesy of Alberta Power Limited and TransAlta Utilities. The eight Albertans are: Judy Andrews, Barrhead; Judy Lucas, Claresholm; Pat Pringle, Didsbury; Sandra Vavrek, Rocky Mountain House; Ethel Brightwell, Grimshaw; Laura Fawcett, Consort; Pat Feenstra, Vermilion; and, Judy Konieczny, Innisfree.

The Montana program, October 22 through 24 in Sydney, focuses on helping 4-H leaders. Program topics include building family strengths and helping your parents to be more effective parents.

The other six leaders will attend the Western Provinces Leadership Development program in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba October 20 through 24. They are: Brenda Engelson, Taber; Irene Smith, Vermilion; Larry Young, Camrose; Frances Stewart, Grimshaw; and, Donna Reiger, Medicine Hat. Marian Williams, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Camrose, will also attend the forum.

This leadership program is sponsored by the federal government's Rural Opportunities Program, provincial 4-H councils in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, as well as the Central 4-H Regional Council of Manitoba.

"This forum's theme is quest for quality," notes Stark. "The program is designed give leaders skills to deal successfully with 4-H members and other leaders."

Session topics include challenges and opportunities in agriculture, entrepreneurs and diversification, and balancing work, family and 4-H.

Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

UK Young Farmer seeing province through 4-H families

A 19-year-old from Cornwall will see Alberta during a month-long stay with four different 4-H families across the province.

Lisa Jane Blight, a four-year member of Young Farmers' clubs, arrived in Canada on October 13 to begin her stay as part of the Shell 4-H United Kingdom Exchange. Currently she's with the Doug and Leanne Graham family in Vulcan.

"She'll be seeing a lot of the province because from the southern community of Vulcan, Lisa will go on to stay with families in Olds, Morinville and Delia," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

"As well as really getting to know Alberta by staying with these families, she'll meet with Shell representatives and tour some of Alberta's most interesting places," Stark adds.

Blight will stay in Vulcan until October 20. She'll then stay with the Roy and Tammy Gardner family in Olds until October 27. The Dennis and Dale Belanger family in Morinville will host Blight between October 27 and November 3. Her final stay is with the Harry and Lynda Hewson family in Delia.

Among the exchange's objectives is exchanging information and ideas so delegates become aware of potential agriculture, food and natural resources technology transfer. It also allows delegates to broaden their outlook on the world by experiencing another cultural environment.

"This broadening outlook works in many ways, for the U.K. delegate, for the Canadian families who host the delegate and for the Canadians who travel to the U.K. and the people they met there," says Stark.

To conclude her visit Blight will accompany Alberta delegates to the National 4-H Conference in Toronto in early November.

Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Agri-News briefs

Valleyview seminar focuses on business ideas for rural Albertans

On October 23 and 24 a business ideas and opportunities for rural Albertans in the '90s seminar will be held in the northern Alberta community of Valleyview. The seminar focuses on creating awareness about changes taking place affecting lifestyles and the way people earn a living on the farm and in small communities. It's designed to generate new ways of thinking about career paths and means of making a living. Other goals of the seminar are: to motivate residents in northwestern Alberta to be more creative with their skills and assets; to create more awareness by communicating and working together co-operatively; and, ultimately to encourage diversification of the local economy of rural communities. Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development minister, will attend the seminar. The regional seminar will be held at the Valleyview Memorial Hall. The event is sponsored by the Valleyview Regional Economic Development Board, Alberta Economic Development and Tourism, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and Alberta Agriculture. For more information, contact Edie Spagrud with the Valleyview Regional Economic Development Board at 524-3942.

Alberta Agriculture Engineer honored

Robert Borg, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineer based in Red Deer, has been recognized as the Canadian Society of Agricultural Engineering/American Society of Agricultural Engineers "engineer of the year". Borg, who has worked for Alberta Agriculture since 1977, is particularly known for his work with livestock housing and environmental control. He puts strong emphasis on using computer aided design and drafting as an extension tool. He's involved with a number of applied research projects in conjunction with universities and private companies. Before joining Alberta Agriculture he worked in research and teaching positions in Alberta and Manitoba. Borg can be contacted in Red Deer at 340-5323.

Co-op youth sought for Philippines exchange

Five Canadian youths are needed for a first-time exchange between the Canadian Co-operatives Association and the National Federation of Co-operatives in the Philippines. Albertans between the ages of 18 and 25 who are interested in the eight-week exchange between March and May 1994 should contact the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) in Edmonton at 451-5959. The application deadline is October 28. Exchange participants must be willing to participate in all aspects of the program. The eight weeks overseas is a volunteer work placement with multi-purpose co-operatives in the Philippines and an optional four-week Canadian work placement in a credit union or co-operative with a Filipino participant. Previous attendance at a co-op youth seminar or active involvement with an Alberta co-op or credit union would be an asset. Application forms and more

Cont'd on page 6

information are available from REDA at 14815-119 Avenue in Edmonton, call 451-5959 or FAX 452-5385.

Western Heritage Llama and Alpaca Show and Sale Nov.6-7

The third annual Western Heritage llama and alpaca show and sale runs November 6 and 7 at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. All 50 animals in the show on Saturday are for sale the following day. Llamas will dominate with only five alpacas in the show and sale. A majority of the animals are female. For more information, contact Ken Jones in Strathmore at 934-4200.

6th Annual Canadian Farm Women's Conference Nov.10-13

The sixth annual Canadian Farm Women's Conference is November 10 through 13 in British Columbia. The conference will be held at the Delta Pacific Resort in Richmond. For more information, contact Myrna Hunt at (604) 856-6363.

Oat producers meet November 18-19

The Oat Producers Association of Alberta is holding its annual conference in Edmonton November 18 and 19. Managing for change is the theme of the conference that features direct seeding, research update, mini grains congress and marketing oat production. Conference participants are invited to submit a representative oat sample. The best sample wins its grower a brand new pair of boots. A number of oat buyers are attending the conference and will be introduced. The wrap-up luncheon features Ken Beswick, a Canadian Wheat Board commissioner, discussing the future of the Canadian grain industry. For more information, write the association at Box 1595, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N9 or call 444-0066.

Alberta Agriculture specialist VP of Weed Management Association

Shaffeek Ali of Alberta Agriculture's soil and crop management branch was elected vice-president of the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) at its first annual conference. The conference was held in a Colorado in late September. The association is a new one. It was founded in the fall of 1992. Its membership is weed management professionals and focuses on their needs as they protect natural resources from noxious weeds. For more information about NAWMA, contact Ali in Edmonton at 427-7098 or the NAWMA office in Fort Collins, Colorado at (303) 229-0352.

Low-Input Farming Workshop

A workshop on alternative production practices for grain and specialty crops in southern Alberta will be held in Claresholm on November 17. The day-long workshop is sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Association. Three workshop leaders will share their experience. Dwayne Smith, association president, is a certified organic farmer with a 2,000 acre farm near Vulcan. Lizabet Dwyer is a soil scientist and operates a strawberry u-pick. Rapha-l Thierrin is doing graduate research in environmental sciences. The speakers will explain how to develop a farm management plan and provide a guide to continue planning at home. This guide includes worksheets for input costs, different crop production techniques and benefits derived from farming practices. The association's market development initiatives will also be covered. The workshop is $25 for association members and $35 for non-members. For more information, contact Smith at 485-6461 or Dwyer in Nanton at 646-2689.

Canola producer regional meetings through November

Alberta Canola Producers Commission directors will host regional meetings in their districts through the month of November. The meetings are an opportunity for producers to express their opinions, concerns and hopes for their industry and commission activities. As well, information sessions address canola market outlooks and production. The meeting dates and locations are as follows: Peace River, November 5; Rycroft, November 6; Stettler, November 8; St. Albert, November 10; Vermilion, November 22; Two Hills, November 23; Acme, November 29; and, Taber, November 30. For more information, contact the Alberta Canola Producers Commission in Edmonton at 452-6487.

ACC Check-off Plebiscite in early '94

All eligible cattle producers will vote on the Alberta Cattle Commission's (ACC) non-refundable check-off between January and March 1994. The vote will be conducted by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. The ACC asked the marketing council for the vote in July 1992. Cattle producers will be asked whether the ACC should operate with a non-refundable or a refundable check-off. Voting will be conducted through a mail-out registration followed by a mail-out ballot from returned registrations. For more information, contact Larry Sears, ACC chair, in Stavley at 549-2481 or Gary Sargent, ACC general manager, in Calgary at 275-4400.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
NOV - 1993

October 25, 1993

Six tips for better dugouts

As farmers wrap up harvest and make plans to finish off pasturing, one task that will pay dividends next year is checking pasture and farmstead dugouts say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

"The water volumes remaining in a dugout and its quality are indicators of what next year will bring," says Neil MacAlpine of the conservation and development branch.

"Be ready for water shortages and water quality problems by checking your dugouts against the six rules for the ideal dugout," adds Darcy Fitzgerald of the engineering services branch.

The first rule is to put dugouts in the right place. Make sure the watershed upstream is large enough to fill the dugout from a normal snowmelt. Keeping manure-loaded water out of the dugout is essential. Locate dugouts so runoff from feedlots or manure piles can't enter them.

Make them big is the second rule. "The modern prairie farm needs big dugouts, " says Fitzgerald. "A million gallon dugout—4,500 cubic metres— barely meets the needs of most pastures. A medium sized hog operation requires at least 1.5 million gallons, or 7,000 cubic metres, for a secure two-year water supply."

A two-year water supply is essential. The water supply crunch of the 1988 drought and the recent drought conditions experienced in the northeast and northwest were directly related to multiple years of very low snowmelt runoff. "Snowmelt can be so unreliable that prairie farmers who sizes their dugout storage on the assumption of it being filled annually is guaranteeing that they'll be desperately searching for water the year the runoff drought arrives," says MacAlpine.

Realistically estimating the farm's present and future water needs is the start to sizing dugouts properly. Alberta Agriculture and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) have brochures and factsheets that make it simple for farmers to check what size of dugout they should have for domestic and livestock production or pasture use.

The third rule is to build deep dugouts. Deep dugouts lose less water from surface evaporation. Between 20 per cent to 40 per cent of a dugout's water can be lost to evaporation annually. For example, a six metre (20 foot) deep dugout that stores the same volume of water as a four metre (13 foot) deep dugout retains 65 per cent more water.

"Deep dugouts also help to maintain better water quality and deter weed growth," adds Fitzgerald.

Once you make a big, deep dugout, the next thing is to get it filled. Make sure blockages in ditches or culverts don't send the snowmelt past the dugout. Get culverts and ditches cleaned out in the fall, so at snowmelt the dugout catches the first—and cleanest—melt water. In open areas, using a snow fence around the dugout can add significant amounts of snow directly into the dugout.

The fifth rule is dugout maintenance, particularly to keep the dugout clean. Dugouts are dead-ends for nutrients and sediments carried into them. Nitrogen and phosphorus that

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Six tips for better dugouts 1

Literature survey on agricultural water issues available 2

Tips to minimize feeder cattle stress 2

Preventing rodent damage to shrubs and trees 3

Council seeks industry contacts 4

Something for everyone at '93 Sheep Symposium 4

Briefs 5

Coming agricultural events notice 7

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

arrive in dugouts don't get flushed out. They feed the weeds, green algae and blue-green algae which eventually cause most water quality problems.

These nutrients get recycled again and again. This increases the organic matter and the waste products the dugout water treatment system must deal with.

"Most dugout treatment methods treat the problem rather than the source. So, once farmers begin treatments on a dirty dugout, they are on a treadmill that doesn't stop," says Fitzgerald.

By grassing the watercourse and the immediate area surrounding the dugout, and installing control structures such as flood dikes and gated culvert inlets, the bulk of the sediments can be kept out of a dugout.

The final rule is to keep cattle out of dugouts. The best way to keep dugouts clean is to fence dugouts and use a pumping system to watering troughs. This also saves the dugout from being trampled in, which reduces its capacity. As well, it keeps foot rot out of the herd.

If pumping systems aren't an option, having a fenced lane into the dugout with a gravelled path will cut down on some of the fouling by cattle notes Fitzgerald. "Wind powered and solar powered pumps are rapidly becoming more feasible, making pumping systems a more likely alternative," he adds.

Many district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen and forage/pasture associations have pasture watering system demonstrations. Contact them for their experience with these systems.

Advice on improving water supplies, treatment systems and pasture watering alternatives is available from Alberta Agriculture's regional engineers and regional engineering technologists as well as from regional PFRA offices.

Contact:	*Neil MacAlpine* *422-6530*	*Darcy Fitzgerald* *427-2181*

Literature survey on agricultural water quality available

A new report and literature survey looks at water quality issues from the Alberta perspective.

The publication, "Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution of Water: A Literature Survey from an Alberta Perspective" is now available from Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"This report is designed for specialists and field staff advising farmers about water quality problems plus others interested in becoming familiar with this topic," says Neil MacAlpine.

"Agricultural pollution is an issue in other parts of North America. However, here in Alberta, no widespread contamination has been found to date. Research on water quality is just beginning," he adds.

The literature survey emphasizes information relevant to Alberta and covers key research results, best management practices, water quality models, principles for projects to control agricultural water pollution and the main water quality issues related to agriculture in Alberta.

The report also summarizes recent North American work on agricultural water pollution from the late 1970s to December 1992.

Surface water and groundwater can also be contaminated by pollution from broad areas such as fields or forests, referred to as "nonpoint sources". Agricultural nonpoint source pollutants include sediment, animal wastes, fertilizers, pesticides and salts.

In general, agriculture in Alberta uses significantly lower inputs such as fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and water than other regions of North America notes MacAlpine. "Consequently, the pattern and scale of agricultural pollution that is making news in other regions may not be observed in Alberta. "The potential for pollution often relates to the concentration or intensity of use of a pollutant. Alberta's agriculture is predominantly extensive rather than intensive," says David Neilson.

"Although research about water pollution is just beginning in Alberta," adds Neilson, "it's important for extension staff and farm managers to learn more about this issue. Preventing water pollution is much easier than trying to restore polluted waters.

"While concerns about agricultural pollution may be driven by findings elsewhere in North America, we need to maintain good water quality to protect the health of farm families and livestock, and to ensure the reputation of our agricultural industry for growing food in a clean and healthy environment."

For copies of the literature survey and more information, contact MacAlpine or Neilson of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-6530.

Contact:	*Neil MacAlpine* *422-6530*	*David Neilson* *422-6530*

Tips to minimize feeder calf stress

If abundant feed made you decide to feed calves this fall, your first priority should be to minimize calf stress says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"With feed grain and forage apparently abundant throughout most of the province, many cow-calf producers may be holding on to their calves. As well, many grain growers are considering feeding calves to market their feed grains," says Dale Engstrom of the cattle and sheep branch.

"The first two weeks after weaning is the most critical, and stressful, time in the feeding period," he adds. Weaning, adjusting to new surroundings and feed and water sources,

Cont'd on page 3

and coping with inclement weather are stressful. Stress is greater if the calves were sold through an auction market and then transported to a new location.

Anyone feeding newly weaned or purchased calves has two objectives says Engstrom. First, calves should experience minimum health problems. Second, they should begin gaining weight as soon as possible. So, calves should be as comfortable as possible and on good rations from the start. These are keys to the adequate nutrition they need during the start-up period.

"As many experienced feeders know, feed in the bunk isn't the same as feed in the calf. Adequate nutrition means a lot more than just offering a balanced ration. When you plan your feeding program, don't forget the little things that help get calves on feed. Plus, develop a suitable health program for your feeder calves with your veterinarian," he says.

Engstrom has six how-to suggestions for getting calves on feed. "If you feed your own calves, give them time to learn what dry feed is by feeding them with the cow herd for a few days before weaning," he says. If feeding is in the corral or lot calves will be in after they're weaned, they'll also get familiar with the watering system.

"On the other hand, if you buy calves, put a few older animals such as yearlings, dry cows or even bulls in with them. This will help the calves to settle down and also to find the feed and water," notes Engstrom.

Use only highly palatable feed when starting to feed new calves. Good grass or grass-legume hay is an ideal feed for this time period. Allow the calves to feed free choice so they can eat as much as possible during the first day or two on feed.

There are a number of feeds to avoid at the start. Moldy, dusty or heat damaged feeds have poor palatability. Avoid pure alfalfa because of bloat risk and the possibility of scouring. Avoid silage for a few days, especially if it's the only source of forage, because calves aren't familiar with this feed. Don't bed with straw, unless necessary, as some calves will stay back from the feedbunk and fill up on this poor quality roughage.

Normal water intake is another critical factor in getting stressed calves on feed. "If calves can't find or won't use the water source, dehydration will increase stress," he says. "But there are ways to get calves to drink."

For example, many experienced feeders jam the float on the water bowl for the first day and the overflow attracts calves. Others like to move in portable stock tanks to improve access to water. "Whatever it takes to get calves drinking, it's worth the extra effort," Engstrom says.

Start feeding grain within a day or two as stressed calves need the energy grain provides. "You can also add necessary protein, vitamin and mineral supplements with the grain," he adds. Oats is a frequent choice, though any feed grain can be used. Oats have a slightly lower energy content and higher fibre level.

During the first three days feed two to three pounds of grain per head per day. This can be increased a little each day so the calves get one per cent of their body weight as grain within 14 days. "If the calves won't eat grain, then limit the forage to encourage them to eat the grain," he says.

Silage can be fed starting on the third or fourth day. An excellent feed once cattle are used to it, silage can be mixed with grain and used to control grain intake.

Finally, pen and feedbunk space should fit the number and size of calves being fed. If necessary, sort calves into groups based on size so 350 pound calves aren't competing for feed and space with 600 pounders.

Contact: Dale Engstrom
427-5083

Preventing rodent damage to shrubs and trees

Young trees and shrubs are tasty targets for rodents once snow covers their usual food says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Mice like young bark when the seeds they usually eat are covered in snow," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

"Mice aren't the only problem," she adds, "Rabbits prefer young twigs but also strip off bark. Porcupines will damage your yard trees by feeding on the bark.

"Fortunately there are a number of ways to prevent animals from stripping bark from valuable young trees and shrubs. Prevention is the recipe, because often the damage caused can lead to the demise of the plant."

Tree guards are one preventative measure. Install them in the fall and remove them in the spring. They can be made from plastic, aluminum foil, 1.25 cm mesh, hardware cloth, PVC pipe or 2.5 cm chicken wire. Wrapping the trunk with aluminum foil is effective and also prevents sunscald. Hardware cloth or chicken wire should be long enough to encircle the trunk and for its ends to be tied securely together. Cut PVC pipe along one side and then place around the tree trunk. Commercial guards are also available.

All tree guards should extend five cm below the soil line for effective mouse control. Rabbit guards need to extend 0.6 to 0.7 m above the snow line to be effective. Chicken wire is a better guard for rabbits than for mice.

"As well, keep tree wells free of grass," she notes. Mice usually won't cross an open area to feed. Lawns close to trees should be trimmed to 5 cm. Alternative foods such as crabapples, berries and bird seed should be removed.

Pull away mulch from young tree bases for the winter. "Mice can't dig in frozen ground to feed on the plants," she says.

Cont'd on page 4

Barkley advises keeping an eye out for signs of mice around the yard. Traps may be necessary.

Repellents are another alternative. Rabbit Repel or Rodent Repel both contain the active ingredient thiram. Thiram is effective for rabbits, mice or deer. It can be painted or sprayed on a tree trunk. "It tastes bad, but won't harm animals," says Barkley.

Natural soaps with ammonium salts from higher fatty acids also have an unpleasant odor that repels most animals. The odor discourages the animals from feeding without harming them. Natural Animal Repellent by Wilson is an example.

For more information, contact Barkley in Brooks at 362-3391.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Council seeks industry contacts

The Agriculture and Food Council is currently seeking contacts in industry organizations to keep the Creating Tomorrow process moving ahead.

"This is part of putting Creating Tomorrow into action," say George Schoepp, council member and chair of its communications task team. "These contact people will be the council's link to organizations and part of the strong partnerships and continuous consultation envisioned in Creating Tomorrow."

More than 100 agriculture and food organizations have already been mailed invitations to name a member representative. "We may have inadvertently missed yours, so if your group is interested and hasn't received an invitation, please contact us," he adds.

Names, addresses, and phone and fax numbers (if available) should be received by October 28. They can be sent to the Agriculture and Food Council, c/o 301, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

As well, each contact person can attend a workshop on strategic planning, using Creating Tomorrow as an example. Workshops are planned for late November.

"Part of the workshop is sharing how some industry organizations have already used Creating Tomorrow as a guide to their planning," notes Schoepp.

One of those groups is the Alberta Food Processing Association (AFPA). AFPA sent a questionnaire to members and then held a "visions" conference. About 50 companies were represented at the two-day conference. Participants discussed where the association should be and what it should look like in 10 to 20 years. A blueprint was developed and then matched against the strategies in Creating Tomorrow.

For more information on the council's contact invitation, contact Schoepp in Stony Plain at 943-3376 or one of the other members of the communications team, Phil Dixon at 447-1860 or Jim Waters at 260-8614.

Contact:	*George Schoepp*	*Phil Dixon*	*Jim Waters*
	963-3376	*447-1860*	*260-8614*

Something for everyone at '93 Sheep Symposium

From sheep and silviculture to building the better lamb chop, the 1993 Alberta Sheep Symposium offers a wide range of topical subjects.

"We tried to include a little something for everyone in this year's program," says Kim Stanford, chair of the 1993 symposium and an Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist. The symposium is November 25 through 27 at the Chateau Lake Louise.

Stanford, also a symposium speaker, will discuss building the better lamb chop. How-to select for improved carcass quality and results of the 1993 Blue Tag program are part of her presentation.

Out-of-province speakers hail from British Columbia, Montana and the United Kingdom. Henry Lange from the B.C. agriculture department will discuss the potential of forestry grazing, an overview of 1993 season and how to choose a forestry contractor.

Joining the symposium from Montana are Verl Thomas, a professor from Montana State University, and Bill and Dana Milton, producers from Roundup. Thomas will talk about grazing ewes on alfalfa. Bill Milton will look at holistic resource management from a sheep slant. Dana Milton will discuss maximizing wool income.

Olivia Mills, of the British Dairy Sheep Association, will make two presentations. One is on how to get more milk from ewes and the other is on sheep dairying.

The agenda also includes: a sheep simulation model for production analysis; niche marketing; mainstream lamb marketing; and, a panel discussion on a year-round lamb supply.

Niche marketing is three concurrent sessions notes Stanford. The individual presentations are on maximizing wool income, sheep dairying and niche marketing lamb.

For more information, contact Stanford in Lethbridge at 381-5150 or Wray Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-5083.

Contact:	*Kim Stanford*	*Wray Whitmore*
	381-5150	*427-5083*

Agri-News briefs

Midnight calf check homework

For students in a cow-calf class at Lakeland College burning the midnight oil on homework has a new meaning: checking on cows due to calve. This is the second year the college is involved with fall calving. For the students, homework means checking at midnight and 4 a.m. to see if any calves have dropped or are about to arrive. The September through November calving gives students hands-on learning in animal handling, animal health, feedlot and stockman's practice classes. For more information, contact Dr. Robyn Rodgers in Vermilion at 853-8611.

Northlands Farmfair Nov. 6-14

Edmonton Northlands Farmfair celebrates 20 years of operation this November. The event runs November 6 through 14. Farmfair began in 1973 after livestock shows during Klondike Days were cancelled. It now includes 18 different beef breed shows plus poultry, rabbit and quarter horse shows. Besides a number of livestock sales, Farmfair also includes events such as provincial draft horse pulling and professional sheep shearing. Also part of Farmfair activities are a "country marketplace" and a Western art show and sale. The Canadian Finals Rodeo also runs during the same period, November 10 through 14. For more information, call Edmonton Northlands at 471-7210.

Hort congress joins forces with LANTA

The Alberta Horticultural Congress will be held in conjunction with the Prairie West Horticultural Trade Show and Landscape Alberta Nursery Trade Association (LANTA) convention November 4 through 6. As a result the trade show element is larger and more comprehensive. The congress and associated activities will be held at the Edmonton Convention Centre, 9797 Jasper Avenue, in Edmonton. For more information, contact Simone Demers Collins at 422-1789.

Conservation in Palliser triangle at Nov.16-17 Conference

Soil conservation in the Palliser Triangle is featured at a two-day conference and trade show in Medicine Hat November 16 and 17. Organized by the Southern Alberta Conservation 2000 clubs, the conference will look at topics ranging from direct seeding to weed control in minimum tillage. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture in Lethbridge at 381-5119.

Pork industry meetings in November

The Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation and the Canadian Pork Council are both holding semi-annual meetings during November. The Alberta organization will meet in Calgary November 9 and 10. For more information on that meeting, contact Gloria Prochinsky in Edmonton at 474-8288. The Canadian Pork Council meets later in the month in Banff. The meeting is November 25 and 26 at the Banff Springs Hotel. For more information, contact Shirley Arthur in Ottawa at (613) 236-9239.

What is water conservation?

The Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA) will hold its annual conference November 22 and 23 in Lethbridge. The conference theme targets conservation through "what is water conservation?". Keynote speaker is Allan Powers of the U.S. Reclamation Bureau. Four workshops will highlight how new research information and product innovations can maximize efficient water use. In particular, four key areas are examined. They are monitoring, farming, irrigation districts and municipalities. The cost-effectiveness of conservation will be addressed by Ted Byfield, evening banquet speaker. Day two features three presentations and a panel discussion. To register for the AIPA conference, call 328-3063 or write the AIPA office at Box 278, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 3Y7.

Agri-marketers offer communication strategies seminar

Setting communication strategies is the topic of a seminar offered by the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association (Alberta) [CAMA] on November 19 in Calgary. The seminar focuses on public relations, media advertising, direct marketing and sales support. A wrap-up speaker tells how to evaluateperformance and results in each of these areas for the best, most cost effective results. The seminar will be followed by the 10th annual best of CAMA awards. For more information, contact Isabel McPherson at 541-0915, Bob Corrigan at 262-6171 or Bruce Barker at 283-5762.

Lloydminster office celebrates 20 years

Alberta Agriculture's Lloydminster district office is celebrating its 20th anniversary with an open house during the week of November 15 through 19. Topic days—beef, crops, business management—will be featured with department specialists. For more information, contact Harry Brook or Linda St. Germain in Lloydminster at (403) 871-6260.

Chemagro outlines benefits of Furadan

The Canadian distributor and the US manufacturer of Furadan have released a position document on the special review of the insecticide. Chemagro and FMC Corporation say the benefits of the insecticide to Canadian agriculture outweigh potential risks to wild birds or other wildlife. The companies state there's no recent evidence that the burrowing owl population has been reduced by grasshopper control measures. They add unreasonable restriction of Furadan would result in increased control costs for growers and cause higher overall production costs. For more information, contact Lou Murray at (416) 614-1053.

Fifth Alberta game bird stamp and print available

The 1993 Alberta game bird stamp and print are now available. The program, unique in Canada, uses wildlife art for its legally-required game bird hunting stamp. As well, Alberta is only the province that allows Ducks Unlimited Canada to raise funds by producing signed and numbered limited edition prints from the original artwork. The 250 special conservation edition stamp print sets are auctioned at fund-raising dinners. Since the Alberta program began in 1989, an estimated $50,000 has been raised for waterfowl habitat conservation. A canvasback scene by wildlife artist Chuck Lacy of Edson is featured in 1993. For more information, contact Brian Wilkie at the Edmonton office of Ducks Unlimited at 489-2002.

Kyeremanteng elected to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids board

Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager, was recently elected to the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids board of directors. The mission of the U.S. based organizations is to prevent farm-related childhood injuries, health risks and fatalities. Kyeremanteng is the only Canadian on the board. "Being a board member provides our department the opportunity to network with U.S. experts in childhood injury prevention," says Kyeremanteng. Board members include the Dr. Donald Millar, recently retired U.S. assistant surgeon general, and Marilyn Adams, the organization's founder. The current chair of the organization is Burton Cross of the University of Iowa's Institute of Agricultural Medicine and Occupational Health. For more information, contact Kyeremanteng in Edmonton at 427-2186 or Victor Korelstein, executive director, at (515) 758-2827 in Earlham, Iowa.

ACC fall election and producer meetings start Oct.26

Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) election and producer meetings will start October 26 and run through November 10. Producers can vote for delegates in their zone. As well, meetings focus on a number of cattle industry issues. These include: the successful defense of court challenges of the ACC; a plebiscite on the nature of the ACC check-off; the elimination of the National Tripartite Stabilization Program; the transfer of grazing lease administration to the agriculture department; the new 25 per cent tariff on high levels of offshore boneless beef; and, the new beef advertising campaign featuring world champion pairs figure skaters, Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler. For more information, contact zone directors: Larry Helland, Lomond, 792-2150; Gary Brown, Stavely, 549-3787; Jim Turner, Cochrane, 932-5278; Harold Carter, Kinsella, 386-2205; Wilbur Stewart, Big Valley, 876-2784; Arnold Hansen, Viking, 336-2598; Fred van Ingen, Redwater, 942-2189; Karl Schneider, Mannville, 763-2447; or, Bob Balisky, Debolt, 957-2247. Or, for more information call the ACC office in Calgary at 275-4400.

Coming agricultural events notice

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **December 1993 or in 1994**? Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the **name, city or town, and phone number** of a **contact person** for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by* November 27, 1993 *to:

Agri-News Editor
Communications Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
FAX (403) 427-2861

*("Coming agricultural events" is published four times a year in **Agri-News**.*
*The next list will be **December 7, 1993**)*

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

November 1, 1993

NOV 17 1993

New choice for NISA filing

Beginning farmers and farmers planning to expand their business can benefit from a new way to file their Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Producers can now choose the accrual method to file their NISA account, and still file their income tax on a cash basis," says Merle Good, a tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

"There is a catch," he adds. "Once you switch, you must continue to report your income and expenses with the accrual method."

By choosing the accrual method, producers make their NISA deposit based on what they actually raised or grew in a year, rather than on what they sold," notes Good. "It's an appealing option for farmers who have lower cash receipts as they build their inventory values."

Good cautions producers should understand the difference between cash and accrual filing methods before they decide to change how they file their NISA account.

The cash method is commonly used to calculate farm income. It's a basic and simple method. Revenues **actually received** in the year are income. Deductions are expenses **actually paid for** during the year. Capital items such as machinery aren't included. Nor are inventory, accounts receivable and unpaid bills at the end of the fiscal year.

In the accrual method, revenue is reported the year it is **earned** whether or not the farmer is paid. Expenses are deducted the year they are **incurred** whether or not they are paid. As well, changes in current inventory items such as livestock, crops and feeds are included in determining gross income.

If producers choose to change over to the accrual method, NISA gross margin triggers are also calculated on the accrual basis Good notes. As a result, year-end purchases of inventory won't change the farm's gross margin.

This is quite different from the cash basis. Fuel, fertilizer and other inventory at year-end reduce taxable income and reduce the farm's gross margin.

At the same time, NISA's minimum income trigger remains based on the cash method. "This allows producers to withdraw from their NISA account if their net income from all sources, including that year's matchable deposit, is below $20,000 and the participant is married or supports dependents.

"The advantage for the farm manager is making NISA contributions and withdrawals based on the farm's profitability, rather than its cash flow," says Good.

He recommends farmers talk to their accountants before they change to the accrual method. "Your accountant can look at the pros and cons of choosing to file your NISA account a different way, especially since you must use this method until you close your NISA account," Good says.

NISA participants who choose to change to the accrual method must notify the NISA administration in writing.

For more information, contact Good at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4237.

Another important NISA program change gives farmers an opportunity to get back into NISA.

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

New choice for NISA filing 1

Major crop market outlooks in a day 2

4-H scholarships awarded to 84 students 2

MAP brings New Zealand to Red Dee 5

Alberta Agriculture appointments 6

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

"Until now, a farmer who opted out of NISA couldn't get back into the program for three years," notes Janette McDonald Adam, provincial

NISA co-ordinator. "Now farmers can get back in without the three-year penalty."

This ruling had implications for mixed farmers who joined NISA in its early years but dropped out because red meat sales weren't covered. Negotiations are now underway to include red meats in the NISA program.

Producers who want to rejoin NISA must also notify the NISA administration in writing by December 31, 1993. As well, notes McDonald Adam, all monies participants took out of NISA when they opted out must be returned to their re-opened account.

Contact: *Merle Good*
556-4237
Janette McDonald Adam
422-0015

Major crops market outlooks in a day

If you're looking for a quick market outlook update right after harvest, mark November 8 on your calendar.

A one-day market outlook seminar at Josephburg will cover all major grain, oilseed and speciality crops notes Emile deMilliano, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Fort Saskatchewan.

"This is your chance—and a great opportunity—to get brief, but targeted market outlook information for all major crops in one day. The outlook is short-term, about six months.

"This year's seminar is a follow-up to the popular outlook we held last year at the same time and place," says deMilliano who is also one of the seminar organizers. The seminar was planned and organized by the northwest region's crops committee and the Alberta Agriculture Morinville, Fort Saskatchewan, Stony Plain and Lamont district offices.

"We brought back the best speakers from last year along with other highly respected industry and trade personnel," he adds.

Bob Sutton, barley selector for Canada Malt, and Errol Anderson, manager of Palliser Commodities Corporation, are two returnees from the 1992 program. Respectively, they will discuss malt and feed barley markets.

"Given the discussion and uncertainty about a continental barley market, their presentations should be very informative," says deMilliano.

Brenda Brindle is also back on the program. The consulting agrologist with KenAgra Management will give her outlook for the canola export market. Woody Galloway, of CanAmera in Winnipeg, will provide a canola crusher market viewpoint.

Blair Roth, manager of the Alberta Pool's special crops business unit, will give a field pea outlook. An oat processor, Ron Bokenfohr of Alberta Oats, will discuss oat prospects. His company exports race horse oats and feed grain oat groats.

Pricing and shipping (quota) prospects for both Canada Prairie and Hard Red Spring Wheat in the coming year will be discussed by Marvin Hildebrand from the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB).

Also from the CWB comes Ken Beswick, assistant commissioner. He'll discuss the changing international grain market and how Canada needs to adjust.

Bill Yurko, from the Canadian Grain Commission in Edmonton, will discuss farmers' rights when they sell grain.

Representatives of major crop commodity organizations will also attend the seminar notes deMilliano.

The seminar starts at 9 a.m. and will run to about 3 p.m. It will be held at the Moyer Recreation Centre in Josephburg. The cost is $20.

To pre-register, call the Alberta Agriculture district office in Fort Saskatchewan at 998-0190 or your local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist.

Contact: *Emile deMilliano*
998-0190

4-H scholarships awarded to 84 students

Eighty-four past and present Alberta 4-H members have been awarded scholarships for the 1993-94 academic year.

"Post-secondary students from throughout the province benefitted from over $51,000 offered in scholarship monies this year," says Jane Wheeler, scholarship co-ordinator.

Over 280 applications were received for the more than 40 scholarships. Each application was considered based on 4-H and community involvement, leadership skills, school activities, academic standing and other criteria set by scholarship donors.

In 1993 six new scholarships were added to the provincial program. They are: the Calgary 4-H Alumni Scholarship of $300; the Dana Misick Memorial Scholarship of $500; the Harvest Trust Scholarship for approximately $650; the Ralph Cossey Memorial Scholarship of $350; the Co-operators Scholarship of $1,000; and, the Walter Lipkewich Memorial Scholarship of $350.

With the six additional scholarships, the total number available is now 46.

Scholarships are funded by individuals, corporations, associations, the Alberta government and memorial funds. The wide variety of scholarships are available to both former and current Alberta 4-H club members.

For more information about the Alberta 4-H scholarship program or starting a 4-H scholarship, contact Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H branch at Room 200, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, or call 422-4444.

Contact: *Jane Wheeler*
422-4444
Lori McRae
422-4444

Editor's note: A list of scholarship winners follows.

1993-94 4-H Scholarship Winners

A & E Cappelle LN Herefords	approximately $250	Julianne Sage	Spruce Grove
Agrifoods International Cooperative Ltd.	$500	Tim Armstrong Angela Johnson Leanne Kastelic	Dapp Didsbury Sangudo
Alberta Dairy Association & Alberta Agriculture	$1000	Lorena Reinhardt Angel Roberts Ella Wright	Rockyford Barrhead Didsbury
Alberta Farm And Ranch Writers Award	$500	Brenda Schneider	Nisku
Alberta Ford & Mercury Dealer	$1000	Jeffrey Hall Jean Rosenke Darren Hueppelsheuser Kimberley Hadwin Stacey Sellers Lori Andrews Calvin Cassity	Cardston Olds Blackfalds Consort Innisfree Barrhead Wembley
Alberta Salers Association	$500	Allison Foxwell	Edmonton
Alberta Treasury Branches	$1000	Karen Kotke Greg Evans Candice Hueppelsheuser Christina Chostner Andrea Deaville Merry Turtiak Majid Ikram	Fort Macleod Balzac Blackfalds Craigmyle Paradise Valley Evansburg Fairview
Alberta Wheat Pool (1st Year)	$500	Victoria Belanger Dana Bentley	Edgerton Progress bc
Alberta Wheat Pool (2nd Year)	$500	Richard Bruggencate Adrienne Ulrich	Coronation Medicine Hat
Bale Bandits	$1000	Deanna Knowles	Byemoor
Blue Klein Memorial	$250	Gail Cunningham	Kelsey
Calgary 4-H Alumni	$300	Rolanda Ostrom	Okotoks
Ceres International Women's Fraternity	$100	Gina Harty	Whitecourt
Dana Misick Memorial	$500	Kyla Makowecki	St. Paul
Dixon Shield Memorial	$400	Rhonda Penno	Barrhead

Don Matthews Scholarship	$200	Tammy Armstrong	Thorhild
Edith Taylor Memorial	approximately $400	Krista Lubeck	Worsley
Farm Credit Corporation	$300	Tamara Logan	Lomond
		Colleen Sevcik	Hussar
		Kimberly Tulloch	Lacombe
		Shandi Aaserud	Craigmyle
		Brian Davies	Dewberry
		Erin Holmgren	Carnwood
		Sheila Davidson	Elmworth
Farmhouse International Fraternity	$100	Colin Strauss	Edmonton
4-H Foundation Of Alberta	$400	Wendy Williams	Gibbons
George Pimm Memorial	$425	Sarah Smith	Manning
Glen Bodell Memorial	$100	Marcia Mandziuk	Thorhild
Harvest Trust	approximately $650	Janette Caldwell	Altario
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother	$1500	Juliette Cailliau	Valleyview
		Richard Keith Gabert	Manning
		Lorene Stone	Edson
Hoechst Canada Bursary	$500	Susan Foster	Gibbons
Inga Marr	$300	Johnathan Stone	Wainwright
Ken Edgerton Memorial	$475	Lisa Veidt	Grimshaw
Lilydale Co-operative	$800	Deanna Brown	Tofield
Marilyn Sue Lloyd Memorial	$200	Katherine Cochrane	Coronation
Minburn Wild Rose	$200	Lori Konieczny	Innisfree
Norma Jean Gray	$1000	Leanna Eaton	Ardrossan
		Krista Ganton	Leduc
		Alexis Moulton	Alix
		Nancy Muchka	Acme
		Gwen Skocdopole	Botha
Pennington Memorial	approximately $1000	Renn Breitkreuz	Onoway
		Alison Strydhorst	Neerlandia
Ralph Cossey Memorial	$350	Janice Feenstra	Vermilion
Stanley Shulhan Memorial	$200	Kellie Pederson	Barrhead
The Co-operators	$1000	Andrea Wojcik	High River
Thomas Caryk Memorial	$500	Alan Hogg	Wembley

TX Bar (1)	$1000	Jayson Van Sluys	Fort Macleod
TX Bar (2)	$500	Pamela Vos	Burdett
TX Bar (3)	$400	Scott Lehr	Medicine Hat
United Farmers Of Alberta	$500	Shannon Smith Timothy Ziegler	High River Vegreville
United Grain Growers	$500	Jailene Spence	Athabasca
Vermilion River 4-H District	$200	Billie Jo Mitchell	Kitscoty
Walter Lipkewich Memorial	$350	Leeann Gorgichuk	Two Hills
Wetaskiwin District 4-H	approximately $700	Greg Wedman	Wetaskiwin
Wheat Board Surplus Monies Trust	$300	Scott Swanek Laine Bishop Carolyn Douglas Angela Bishell Merrilea Tillotson Casey Shank Gail Roessler	Lethbridge Carseland Lacombe Veteran Innisfree Clyde Sexsmith
Woodgrove Unifarm Local	approximately $400	Debbie Petryshen	Westlock

MAP brings New Zealand to Red Deer

The 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'94) conference will bring New Zealand experience to Alberta producers.

Brian Chamberlain, past president of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, is the February 1 to 3 conference's keynote speaker. He'll open the first two days of the conference.

Chamberlain will start by outlining New Zealand's financial crisis in the early 1980s that resulted in a dramatic loss of agricultural income support programs. He'll follow the next day with what happened to the agriculture industry after the cuts.

"We're expecting Mr. Chamberlain and his topic will be very popular and a big draw for the conference," says Alan Ford, MAP'94 planning chair. Ford, a senior planning officer with the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), represents one of the two major conference organizers. The other is Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. Alberta Agriculture, in partnership with other organizations and companies, has presented an annual farm management conference since 1978.

In 1994 the conference will return to the central location of Red Deer. "Conference attendance doubled last year by moving it to a more central location and providing a number of registration options," notes Ford. "We hope to have even more people this year."

The conference blends the theoretical and the practical and is designed for all forward-thinking farmers. Expert speakers provide leading-edge information on subjects related to farm business management, communication, financial planning, technology, marketing and trade.

Among the topics on the 1994 agenda are a Canadian economic outlook, holistic farming techniques, the frontiers of biotechnology, commodity outlooks, communication skills, the secrets of high yield producers, trade policies, a debate on ethanol and overcoming the fear of computer technology.

Conference brochures will be available at Alberta Agriculture district offices by December 1.

Contact: Alan Ford Donna Fleury
421-8911 556-4240

Alberta Agriculture appointments

New regional crop production specialist in Northeast

Don Poisson is the new Alberta Agriculture northeast regional crop production specialist. Most recently district agriculturist in Drumheller for four years, Poisson will now be based in Vermilion. He joined the department in October 1989 after working as an agrologist for a fertilizer dealership in Crossfield. "I'm looking forward to the challenge of being the crop production specialist in region four," he says. His duties include co-ordinating crop production extension information. Raised on a grain and livestock farm near Dolland, Saskatchewan, Poisson holds a bachelor of science in agriculture degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He can be contacted in Vermilion at 853-8122.

Drumheller has new district agriculturist

John Huffman is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Drumheller. He comes to his new position from previous district agriculturist jobs in Sedgewick (1990 to 1992) and Westlock (1992-3). As district agriculturist he provides credible and current information to area farmers, agricultural organizations and agribusiness. "I believe there is a positive future in the agriculture industry," says Huffman. "The challenge is to know where to find the opportunities, to recognize the opportunities and then to take full advantage of those opportunities." Huffman grew up on a grain and hog farm near Rosetown, Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1984 with a bachelor of science in agriculture. Soil science was his specialized area of study. Huffman can be reached in Drumheller at 823-1675.

New district agriculturist in Taber

Graham Gilchrist has moved north, but only a few miles and not out of southern Alberta. He's now Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist in Taber. Glichrist had held the same position in Foremost for the last five years. Raised on a ranch east of Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park along the Milk River, Gilchrist brings strong ties to the range and the farm ethic to his work. From Foremost, he also brings strong skills in cereal, range and financial management. "I'm also excited to work with producers and the variety of new and speciality crops in the Taber area," he says. Gilchrist is a graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman. He received a bachelor of science in agricultural business in 1986. He can be reached in Taber at 223-7907.

Agri-News briefs

Oat producers conference November 17 & 18

November 17 and 18 (not the 18 and 19) are the dates for the annual Oat Producers Association of Alberta conference in Edmonton. The conference theme is "managing for change". Agenda topics include direct seeding, a research update and marketing production. For more information, contact the association in Edmonton at 444-0066.

Agriculture computer and information fair November 4

The latest in agricultural computer technology will be under one roof on November 4 in Lloydminster. An agriculture computer and information fair runs from 10 a.m through 3:30 p.m. at the Wild Rose Pavilion at the Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds. Leading agricultural software and information companies will make presentations throughout the day. Exhibitors will cover bulletin boards, farm accounting, information systems and production systems for crops, swine and beef. The fair is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Lakeland College and the Lloydminster Exhibition Association. For more information and presentation times, contact Alberta Agriculture at (403)875-6460 or Saskatchewan Agriculture at (306)825-6470.

Potato Growers annual meeting November 17-19

Expanding markets in a shrinking world is the theme of the Potato Growers of Alberta annual meeting November 17 through 19. The three-day meeting will be held at the Lethbridge Lodge in Lethbridge. The business program will be supplemented with a number of speakers. Their topics include disease and research updates, seed potato markets and estate planning. A trade show is held in conjunction with the meeting. For more information, contact the Potato Growers of Alberta at 230, 2116-27 Ave. N.E., Calgary, T2E 7A6, call 291-2430 or fax 291-2641.

Agri-Trade show November 10-13

The International Agri-Trade Farm Equipment Exposition runs November 10 through 13 in Red Deer. The trade show features about 400 exhibitors ranging from major equipment dealers to toy equipment collections. The show, at the Westerner, is Western Canada's largest indoor event showcasing all that's new in the agriculture industry. A member of the North American Farm Show Council, the Agri-Trade show is ranked among the top 23 shows in North America. For more information, contact Pat Kennedy in Red Deer at 347-4491.

ACC annual general meeting Dec. 6-8

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) annual general meeting will be held in Edmonton. The meeting runs December 6 through 8 at the Westin Hotel. For more information, contact Ron Glaser in Calgary at 275-4400.

Grain outlook seminars available in November and December

Alberta farmers can learn more about marketing their products at seminars coming to five different locations during November and early December. KenAgra Management Services ran similar seminars last March. Some of the current seminars are also partially funded through the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative. Basic seminars are recommended for producers who don't have futures accounts. They will run November 18 in Strathmore, November 19 in Red Deer, November 23 in Grande Prairie, November 30 in Edmonton and December 2 in Lloydminster. Advanced seminars are November 24 in Grande Prairie and December 8 in Edmonton. The pre-registration fee is $100 (plus GST) and there's no additional charge for a spouse. For more information, contact Cynthia Whitehead or Brenda Brindle at KenAgra in Edmonton at 468-4442.

Agventure'94 coming March 17-19

Medicine Hat is adding an agricultural trade show to its spring pro rodeo. The Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce and Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede are co-sponsoring AgVenture'94. It will be held March 17 through 19 in the Cypress Centre and on the exhibition grounds. Anyone interested in being on the AgVenture'94 mailing list should contact Anna at the chamber office at 526-5216.

Video field trip now available through Environmental Protection

"Walk softly...and care for the land" is a 28-minute video field trip through Alberta. The video is now available for loan from Alberta Environmental Protection. The land use issues video is aimed at junior and senior high school students and at moting wise decision-making. Current land uses, conservation measures, land use changes, land reclamation and personal stewardship are explored in the video. "Teaching time is valuable and there isn't always the time or money to take students on a field trip to see land conservation in action," says Bev Yee, head of Alberta Environmental Protection's education branch. "Teachers should consider this production as a video field trip across Alberta." Viewers will see Fort McMurray oil sands, central Alberta's prairie grasslands and mountain foothill forestry recreation areas. The video is part of land conservation education material available from the department. Print materials are available for kindergarten through grade 12. The complete "Walk Softly" package, including a teacher's guide, will soon be available to schools. To borrow the video, call the department's film library in Edmonton at 427-4381. Closed caption copies are available.

Phone. (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

November 8, 1993

CANADIANA

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Holding pattern for feeder cattle prices

After record high prices for the peak calf run, feeder cattle prices will probably enter a holding pattern through the late fall and early winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"1993 will be a year to remember in feeder cattle markets, but the odds of further price increases this winter do seem fairly remote," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"The pessimist in the crowd may be asking when will prices fall?" he adds. "Prices won't move down until feedlots experience a period of feeding losses."

One unusual, and a sure sign of a hot feeder cattle market, also occurred this fall. Alberta feedlots started pulling in cattle from the U.S. "This was limited, and last occurred in any significant quantity in 1987," notes Gietz. Not coincidentally, 1987 had the second highest calf prices on record to this year.

The U.S. fed cattle market also didn't follow the usual rules this year he adds. Fed cattle prices hit their low in October. Annual lows usually come in the third quarter, not the fourth quarter.

"It goes to show rules-of-thumb are meant to be broken," Gietz says. "The steady accumulation of feedlot inventories and a mediocre marketing rate in the summer led to low fall prices."

While cattle feeder prices had large losses in the U.S. during October, the picture was definitely rosier in Canada. "Market prices were high enough for close-outs to mostly 'wash' or breakeven," he says. "Much of the price strength has come from a relatively low Canadian dollar, although the exchange rate increased slightly during October."

Gietz adds several dollars of October's Alberta steer price came from the "October hole" in marketings. Tight supplies locally forced packers to pay a premium for cattle during the month. The supply shortfall consistently occurs in October before yearlings purchased off grass in late summer are ready for slaughter.

"This year's bidding war for available cattle was fiercer than normal and resulted in a narrow Canada-U.S. price spread," he notes.

Slaughter cattle prices will depend to some extent on the Canada-U.S. exchange rate. "The most important question is whether the recent increase was an abberation or the start of an upwards trend," he says.

Gietz bases his slaughter cattle price forecast on a 78 cent Canadian dollar by early 1994. As well, he sees increasing supplies of fed cattle in Alberta during November and December. This will widen the Canada-U.S. price spread. He predicts Alberta direct sale steer (DDS) to average $89/cwt. in November and $88 for December and January, then rising gradually through the new year.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

This Week

Holding pattern for feeder cattle prices	*1*
Wheat export program troubled by less buyer demand	*2*
Feedgrain prices lower than '92	*2*
Canola price trend sideways	*2*
Lamb prices set to increase	*3*
Yellow peas more dollar green	*3*
Varroa mite found in Alberta bee colonies	*3*
Briefs	*4*

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Wheat export program troubled by less buyer demand

Forecasts Russia, China and India will import less wheat this year spell trouble for Canada's export program says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Current wheat exports are already 30 per cent below last year's levels. Last year our share of the world market also dropped," notes Larry Ruud. "And, lessened demand from major customers such as Russia and China aren't the only problems."

Two U.S. trade actions—one a reality and another just a potential problem right now—will also hurt exports. The U.S. Export Enhancement Program will pay bonuses to Mexico this crop year. The Canadian market share will likely decline. As well, a quota could be placed on Canadian wheat sold to the U.S.

"The end result could be a very large wheat carryover. Some industry analysts predict it could rise about 16 million tonnes," says Ruud.

"It also leaves producers with the question of when to sell," he adds. "It's even more important this year considering the expected carryover into next year.

"A 50 per cent carryover of what was produced this year will depress local feed markets and compound our problems next year if production stays at recent levels. It's not a free carryover either, when you consider the cost of storage in terms of bin space and interest," says Ruud.

Ruud recommends producers move their feed wheat into local markets when they can.

For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Feedgrain prices lower than '92

Feedgrain prices have been both volatile and lower than last year's values since mid-September says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Cash values have remained depressed even though Canadian feedgrain futures were supported by a strong corn market," notes Larry Ruud of the market analysis and statistics branch.

Feedlot and feedmill bids across the province in mid-October were down between 18 and 25 per cent, with one exception. Grande Prairie prices were the same as in 1992. In comparison, Great Falls, Montana prices were down three per cent and Stockton, California prices were up two per cent.

"Cash prices for barley and feed wheat both look to be near their lows," says Ruud. "There's a limited potential for prices to pick up by $5 to $10 per tonne in the cash market. And, prices should firm up between now and Christmas.

"The top end of their range will come only if our export pace picks up significantly over the winter months," he adds.

As well, no interim 1992-93 price for feed barley was announced by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). "Don't expect a very big final payment," Ruud says. "I'd be surprised if the final payment was any more than around $10 per tonne because the international feedgrain market was weak last year."

On a more positive note, top grade oats have been moving well into the U.S. market. Local prices were steady around $100 per tonne. The oat market should be steady between November and January he adds.

"Some people in the industry are wondering if the Finnish government will subsidize oat exports to the U.S. Finland's next fiscal year begins on January 1, and we'll know then whether or not funds will be allocated to subsidize oat exports," says Ruud.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Canola price trend sideways

The canola market is likely to continue trading between $310 and $320 per tonne says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"I don't see much of a downside in this market, although there are some factors to watch through the fall and early winter," says Larry Ruud of the market analysis and statistics branch.

One of those factors is the Canadian dollar. A one cent change in the dollar's value translates into roughly a $3 to $4 per tonne move in canola futures.

Demand for U.S. soyameal, particularly in Europe, could put a cap on prices. If European feed users substitute meal with cheaper local feedgrains, soybean prices will be held down and so will canola prices.

South American soybean plantings and the oil content of soybeans will also make their mark on the market. Argentina and Brazil, the other main soybean exporters besides the U.S., plant their crops through fall and into January. A significant change in their acreage will have an impact on prices.

"There's also some concern about U.S. soybeans oil content. If the oil content is below historical levels, soybean oil prices should strengthen. This will support canola markets," says Ruud.

Canola demand is a final factor. "If demand meets expectations and the other market factors are within industry estimates, then basis levels should gradually move towards $45 per tonne with futures staying between $310 and $320 per tonne," he says.

Ruud expects cash prices to remain firm at above $260 per tonne. "They could go as high as $285 per tonne," he adds.

Contact: Larry Ruud
427-5386

Lamb prices set to increase

More, while still gradual, price increases are expected in Alberta's slaughter lamb market this winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"After several weeks of steady trading, Alberta slaughter lamb prices increased in late October. Canada West Foods' railgrade price reached $1.80/kg," notes Ron Gietz of the market analysis and statistics branch.

"With a seasonal trend to higher lamb prices in North America, I anticipate Alberta prices to increase over the next several months. Spring lamb prices could be up to $100/cwt.," he adds.

As with other livestock markets, the Canadian dollar's value will influence prices.

Tight supplies in the U.S. market prevented any seasonal weakness in slaughter lamb prices during October. In late October, U.S. slaughter volumes ran about 12 per cent below 1992 volumes.

As well, changing sheep politics in the U.S. should have a positive impact on the Alberta industry. The U.S. Wool Act will be gradually phased out by 1996, instead of ended immediately.

"The gradual phase-out is positive for Alberta lamb producers because it reduces the chances of a massive exit of U.S. producers and resulting sharp increases in marketings during 1994," says Gietz. He says the most likely outcome is a continued decline in the U.S. ewe flock inventory into 1994 and 1995.

Contact: *Ron Gietz*
427-5376

Yellow peas more dollar green

Yellow peas have more price increase potential than either feed or green peas says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Supplies of good quality yellow food peas look like they'll be tight," says Al Dooley. "Currently prices for large yellow peas are as high as they've been in two or three years."

Dooley also has a caution for growers. "With current bids of $5.50 per bushel and higher, depending on company and location, we don't encourage you to speculate for higher prices with your entire 1993 crop."

Feed peas continue to be a good selling opportunity, he notes, despite prices that are down from last year's levels. "However, a Canadian pea crop almost twice that of last year's and greater pea production in the European Community will both stifle large price gains."

The Canadian dollar's value relative to its U.S. counterpart also plays a role in prices. "Prices could be weaker without a drop in the Canadian dollar's value," he says.

So far this crop year, interest in food quality green peas has been relatively poor he adds. "Given the volume of peas available in 1993, further delays in buying activity will tend to reduce significant price increases later in the season," says Dooley.

Grower prices for green peas sat at about a $36 per tonne discount to large yellow types in late October. This contrasts with recent years when yellows have typically been discounted to greens. One factor in this year's turnaround is buying interest from India. "Reportedly the yellow peas are a partial substitute for chickpeas," notes Dooley.

Pea production in Canada for 1993 is estimated at 900,000 tonnes. Last year's record production was 505,000 tonnes. Alberta production is forecast at 272,000 tonnes, or about 30 per cent of the Canadian total.

Contact: *Al Dooley*
427-5387

Varroa mite found in Alberta bee colonies

This fall varroa mites were identified in Alberta honey bees for the first time.

"The find, in northwest Alberta, was made during routine testing of bees going to British Columbia for the winter season," says Kenn Tuckey, Alberta Agriculture provincial apiculturist. Most of the tested colonies didn't have varroa mites. However, two had relatively heavy counts and others had very light counts.

"These colonies had wintered in southern British Columbia during the winter of 1992-93," adds Tuckey.

The mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, is an external parasite that is visible to the naked eye. If left untreated, varroa can kill a bee colony within three years. Varroa is spread from one hive to another when an infested honey bee flies into a new hive.

Canadian beekeepers can use two chemicals, fluvalinate and formic acid, to control varroa mites.

"All the colonies with varroa mites are now being treated before they are moved to British Columbia for the winter," notes Tuckey.

A hobbyist beekeeper, in the same area as the find, was checked. One varroa mite was found in that test.

Seven other beekeeping operations who send their colonies to overwinter in British Columbia were also checked. "No other varroa were found during tests this fall before the bees were sent west," notes Tuckey.

A more common parasitic mite is the *Acarapis woodi*, or tracheal mite. This internal parasite has been found in Alberta for at least the last five years. It is wide-spread in many parts of the province. This mite causes overwinter losses in bee colonies.

Contact: *Kenn Tuckey*
422-1789

Agri-News briefs

Hog prices continue to trade higher than year-ago

Alberta slaughter hog prices should trade above year-ago levels for the next six months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst."I see prices at $1.45 per kilogram through February, then moving up to $1.55/kg for April. This compares to average prices of $1.31 for last November to $1.42 in March of this year," says Ron Gietz. "I see 1994 U.S. prices as averaging very similar to 1993, and perhaps increasing in early 1994," he adds. "This should mean slightly higher prices here, too. But, how U.S. prices translate in the Canadian market depends on the Canadian dollar's value as well as whether there is a surprise in the market, such as a plant closure." For more information, call Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Earthkeeping 18th annual convention Nov. 24 & 25

Making connections is the theme of the 18th annual convention of Earthkeeping, formerly the Christian Farmers' Federation of Alberta. The convention will be held November 24 and 25 at the Nisku Inn. A panel of experts will address key issues of living on a shrinking planet. John L. Moore, a Montana rancher and author, will address relationships. Fred Bentley, soil scientist and consultant, will talk about food availability. Tom Bateman, conservation education officer for fish and wildlife services, will talk about wildlife and wilderness areas. Gerald Debbink, who spent three years on a Mexican farming co-operative, will discuss community living. Community soil preservation, domestic violence in rural communities, community building and wilderness preservation are four workshop options. The North American Free Trade Agreement will be discussed from a Mexican perspective. Everyone is welcome. To register or for more information, call the Earthkeeping office in Edmonton at 428-6981.

Agricultural ethics conference in Nova Scotia January 20-22

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro is hosting a conference on agricultural ethics January 20 through 22, 1994. "Decision making and agriculture: the role of ethics" features four sessions. The topics are animal welfare, agricultural research, Canadian and U.S. agricultural policy and building an ethical framework for agriculture. Session speakers are representatives of farm lobby groups, farmers, academics and government. Keynote speakers are Paul Thompson and Frederick Buttel. Thompson is director of the Center for Biotechnology Policy and Ethics at Texas A&M University. Buttel, from the University of Wisconsin, is director of the Agricultural Technology and Family Farm Institute. The conference is also sponsored by Dalhousie University's philosophy department. For more information, contact conference organizer Dr. Ralph C. Martin at (902)893-6679 or conference co-ordinator Gordon Kinsman at (902)895-8613.

Canadian agricultural outlook conference January 10-11

The Canadian Agricultural Outlook Conference will look at domestic strategies for global change. The conference runs January 10 and 11, 1994 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Representatives from all segments of Canada's agricultural community and agri-food industry will discuss important developments and changes, and their impact on the industry's prospects. Speakers will deal with GATT, the new federal government's policies, North American trade prospects and changes in European and U.S. agricultural policy and programs. For more information and to pre-register, call (613)231-4225.

Hope line launched November 1

Rural Albertans can dial 1-800-361-6572 to reach out for some hope. The Unifarm HOPE line will provide advice and other forms of assistance to farm families in stressful situations. That stress could range from financial crisis to serious injury and personal relationships. The line is a resource link only, and not a counselling service. Referrals will be made within 48 hours, but emergencies will be dealt with on a priority basis. The line initially will operate between 9 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. A National Rural Resource Project, the line will be operated from the University of Alberta. Other project partners are Unifarm and the Women of Unifarm along with the Physically Challenged Farmers of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. For more information, call Florence Trautman at 963-6870.

1993 seed growers workshop

The Alberta branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is holding a workshop December 6 and 7 at Olds College's Duncan Marshall Place lecture theatre. The two-day agenda includes low input weed control, vigor versus germination, hybrid canola production, new varieties, new registration establishments, plot production procedures, cereal research in Alberta and 1,000 kernel weight and plant populations. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information, contact Bill Witbeck at 782-4641.

WSGA convention, short course and trade fair

The Western Stock Growers' Association will hold its 98th annual convention, cattlemen's short course and stock growers' trade fair December 1 and 2 in Calgary. The meeting's theme is "can ranching survive the 21st century?". Temple Grandin, a recognized expert in animal behavior, will discuss cattle handling and facility design. She is an assistant professor at Colorado State University. Other agenda topics include how healthy and safe is beef, the future of the cattle business and strategic ranch management. You don't have to be a WSGA member to attend. For more information, contact the WSGA office in Calgary at 250-9121.

Regional Barley Commission meetings start tomorrow (Nov. 9)

Six regional Alberta Barley Commission meetings will start tomorrow (November 9) in Sexsmith. The five other meetings are November 10 in St. Albert, Novmeber 15 in Vermilion, November 16 in Ponoka, November 17 in Acme and November 18 in Lethbridge. All meetings start with registration at 10 a.m. followed by business reports on finances, research, producer services and market development. Lunch is provided. Barley marketing is the afternoon topic with a guest speaker. For more information contact the regional director(s). For the Sexsmith meeting, contact Don Cox at 835-2418. Contact Eugene Boyko at 446-3635 or Marvin Nakonechny at 387-4557 for information about the St. Albert meeting. Call Charlie Leskiw at 636-2486 about the Vermilion meeting. Ruth Gorr at 443-7829 or Tim Harvie at 932-4858 are the contacts for the region two meeting in Acme. For information on the Lethbridge meeting, call Ron Pittman at 732-4676.

Barley Commission second annual meeting December 2

The Alberta Barley Commission will hold its second annual meeting December 2 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer. The day-long meeting includes speakers as well as commission business. The agenda includes: a research talk by Alberta Agriculture's Mr. Barley, Jim Helm; a barley futures update; barley marketing opportunities in the U.S.; a U.S. view of Canadian barley; and, producer car alternatives. Posters will detail the commission's research work. The 1993 annual leadership award will be presented during the day. Barley yield competition awards will be presented to the winners. For more information, contact the commission at 1-800-265-9111, or in the Calgary area call 291-9111.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

November 15, 1993

DEC 10 1993

Dry trends persist despite improved moisture

Dry trends persist in the northeast and Peace regions even though spring and summer rains fell there this year says Alberta Agriculture's soil moisture specialist.

"Fall stubble soil moisture hasn't changed much in those regions," says Al Howard of the conservation and development branch. "Only portions of southern and west central Alberta currently have good soil moisture reserves."

Soil moisture levels are dry or extremely dry in 66 per cent of Alberta's agricultural areas—55 per cent falling in the low moisture category and 11 per cent in the very low. Soils in this very low category have no significant moisture reserve and may, at best, have a shallow layer of surface moisture. Moisture reserves in low category soils can't sustain crop growth for more than a few days.

"These dry soil conditions are in nearly all of the Peace River region and most of the eastern half of Alberta," notes Howard. [**See attached map**] "Pockets of extremely dry soils were found in all parts of the province, but the largest areas were in the Peace and east central regions.

"While the Peace had heavy June rains, the precipitation didn't help soil moisture," he notes. High rainfall intensity, combined with low soil permeability and heavy crop water use worked against subsoil storage.

"In both areas, dry weather during the late summer and early fall didn't replenish reserves used in crop growth," he adds.

Exceptions were in the south, where summer and fall precipitation was well above normal, and the west central region, where fall precipitation was near normal.

"There are also many positives in this fall's stubble soil moisture picture," says Howard. "Moisture conditions have shown slow, but steady, improvement from the exceptionally dry fall of 1990. The 1993 moisture levels are the best since 1989, but they only about average for the 12-year period since we started the fall survey."

Most areas west of Highway 2 have good to excellent reserves. The highest level of moisture reserves are near the foothills. Most cropland south of Highway 3 has good to excellent reserves. The largest areas are near the Cypress Hills and west of Highway 4.

Respectively, medium and high soil moisture levels can be found in 23 and 11 per cent of the province's agricultural areas. These moisture levels are considered adequate to prevent moisture stress in cereal crops. As well, higher spring runoff is expected in these areas which is beneficial for ponds and dugouts.

Howard notes moisture levels can improve with average snow cover or early spring storms following ground thaw. "Spring storms can contribute large amounts of moisture to the soil reserve and are the best bet for turning conditions around in northern Alberta," he says.

Cont'd on page 2l

This Week

Dry trends persist despite improved moisture 1

October weather good for late harvest 2

Herbicide resistance tackled at December work shop 2

Recycling scraps into houseplants 2

1993 Queen Mother scholarships awarded 4

Applications available for CAESA farm-based program 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

The provincial fall soil moisture map is based on stubble field sampling between September 28 and October 30. Alberta Agriculture regional and district staff provided additional information on local variability and changes in moisture levels between the sampling dates and November 1.

The annual fall map is considered the final look at provincial moisture conditions before freeze-up.

For more information or a complete fall stubble soil moisture report, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861.

Contact: Al Howard
381-5861

October weather good for late harvest

Good harvest weather prevailed despite several frosts, rains and snowfalls in Alberta during October says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Most of Alberta reported near normal temperatures," notes Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch. The average monthly temperature for the province, based on data from 57 weather stations, was near normal.

Lethbridge and Bow Island recorded the warmest average temperature, 7.5°C, for the month. "This was about normal for Lethbridge and a little bit cooler than average for Bow Island," he adds.

Whitecourt and Edson recorded average monthly temperatures of 4.7 and 4.4 °C respectively, 1.4 degrees warmer than the 1951 to 1980 long term average.

In agricultural areas, High Level recorded the coldest monthly average at 0.6C. This average was more than half a degree cooler than normal.

Fort McMurray had the greatest temperature departure from the normal, 1.8°C cooler than the September normal of 3.3°C.

"October's precipitation varied from below normal in some parts of the province to above normal in others," he says. Most of the Peace and central regions of Alberta had below normal precipitation. The northern Peace, southern region and east central Alberta had above normal precipitation.

The Peace and central regions reported between 5 and 30 mm of precipitation, about 25 per cent to 100 per cent of normal. Calgary received 9.0 mm of precipitation, about half of its normal.

Gleichen reported the lowest monthly total precipitation, one mm, just seven per cent of its monthly normal. Pincher Creek reported 40 mm of precipitation, 142 per cent of normal.

For more information, contact Peter Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

Herbicide resistance tackled at December workshop

Scientists and researchers from Canada and abroad will meet in Edmonton December 9 and 10 to discuss the problem of herbicide resistance.

"Herbicide resistance is one of the newest challenges and production issues for Western Canadian farmers," says Denise Maurice, Alberta Agriculture weed researcher and one of the workshop organizers.

"We don't want this problem to reach the stage of multiple resistance such as the case in Australia," she adds.

One of the workshop speakers, a professor from the University of Adelaide, will discuss multiple resistance with Australian case studies and outline the implications for North America.

"Our speakers are experts from across Western Canada as well as from the U.S. and Australia," she notes.

The workshop is divided into five sessions. The first four each look at four areas of the issue. They are: an overview of the resistance problem; modelling and predicting weed resistance to herbicides; the implications of herbicide resistance crops; and, managing weed resistance to herbicides.

For the final session participants can choose one of the four workshop topics. Those choices are from: modelling and predicting resistance; managing herbicide resistance; herbicide resistant crops; and, extension and regulation aspects of resistance.

This workshop is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Environmental Centre and the Crop Protection Institute of Canada.

For more information, contact the soil and crop management branch in Edmonton at 427-7098.

Contact: Denise Maurice
427-6530

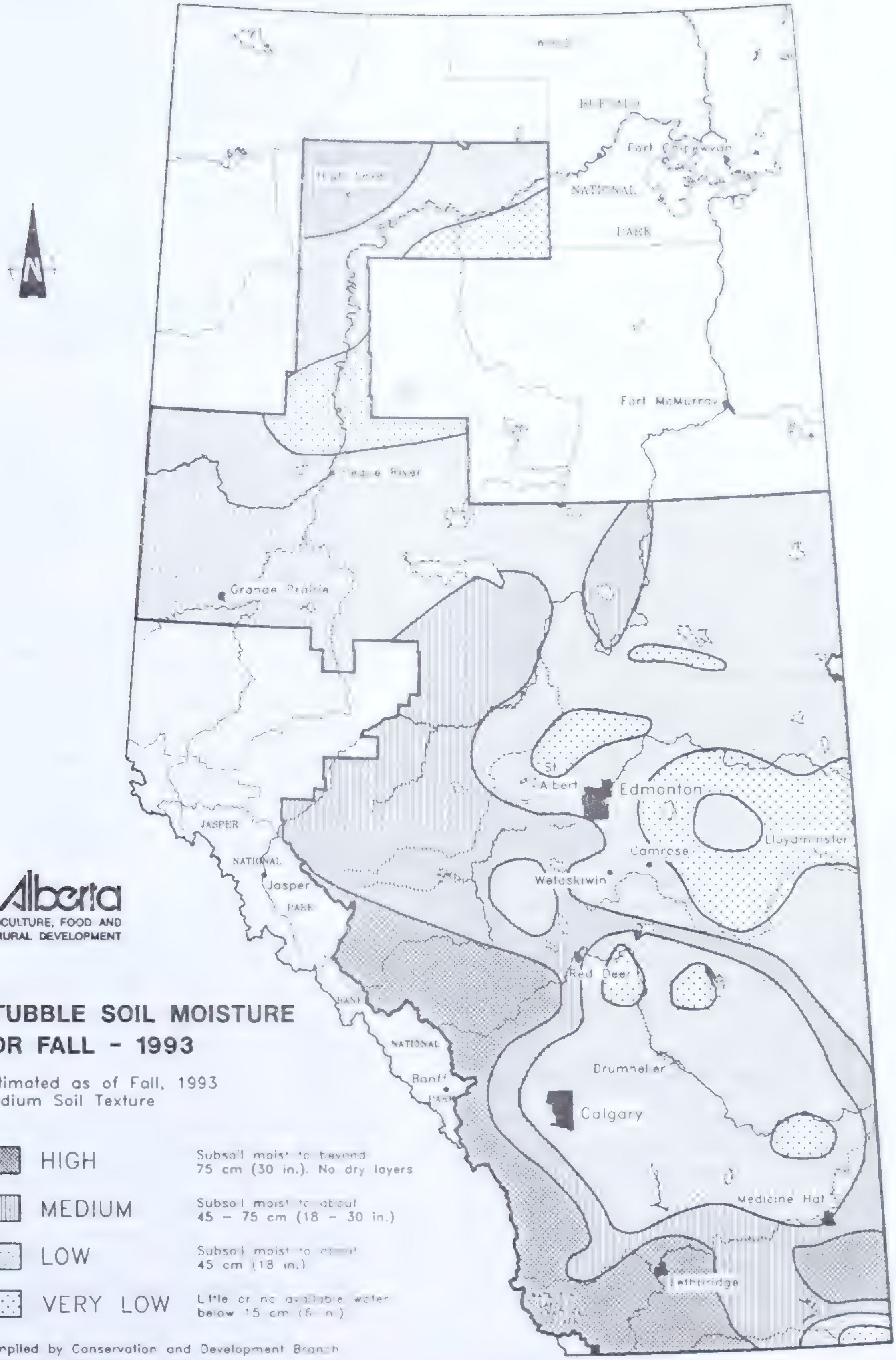
Recycling scraps into houseplants

Before you add vegetable and fruit seeds and leaves to your compost pile, consider recycling them into a houseplant.

"From carrot tops to kiwi seeds, you can make many fruit and vegetable parts into beautiful and somewhat exotic houseplants," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Citrus fruit seeds are one way to a new houseplant says the Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. Plant seeds from grapefruit, oranges, lemons and limes immediately after taking them from the fruit. Push one to two seeds into an eight cm pot filled a moist potting soil. Then, slip a plastic bag over the pot. Keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate. Once they do, remove the bag,

Cont'd on page 4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Calgary
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
WATERTON
PARK

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE FOR FALL - 1993

Estimated as of Fall, 1993
Medium Soil Texture

▩	HIGH	Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm (30 in.). No dry layers
▥	MEDIUM	Subsoil moist to about 45 – 75 cm (18 – 30 in.)
☐	LOW	Subsoil moist to about 45 cm (18 in.)
░	VERY LOW	Little or no available water below 15 cm (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

transplant one of the seedlings out of the pot and move to a sunny window.

"Water the plant when the soil is dry-to-the-touch. Citrus plants need direct light and normal room temperature," she says. "These plants also appreciate extra humidity. You can use pebble trays."

Use a pineapple's crown of leaves to start a houseplant. "You should start with a fruit with fresh leaves in the crown centre," Barkley adds.

Cut the crown off, leaving about one cm of fruit intact. Pare away the fruit flesh on the center disk. Plant the crown, leaf side up, in an eight to 10 cm pot.

"A well-drained media is important when growing a pineapple. Use a one-half peat and one-half coarse sand or perlite mix," she says.

The pineapple prefers direct sunlight, high temperatures and high humidity. Water the plant when soil is dry-to-the-touch.

"There are hundreds of potential plants in the fuzzy kiwi," notes Barkley. "But it takes some time to start the plants."

Scoop out a few seeds. Roll them in paper towel to remove the flesh. Then, scatter seeds on the surface of a pot filled with moist peat moss. Slip a plastic bag over the pot and put it in the refrigerator for four to six weeks.

Remove from the fridge and put in a warm spot. After the seeds germinate, remove the plastic and put the kiwi seedlings in a bright window. Once seedlings are 10 cm tall, transplant the most vigorous into eight to 10 cm pots. Fertilize plants and keep them moist while they are actively growing.

"The kiwi is a vigorous vine you can control by pruning, but it does need support," notes Barkley.

Plants usually drop heart-shaped leaves in late autumn. New ones should come on in mid-winter. During the dormant season allow the soil to dry out between watering. Don't fertilize during this period.

"Carrots make great dish gardens," she adds. "They last about three to six weeks. Then you can start another one."

Start with an attractive dish. Put in five cm of pebbles. Cut the top 10 cm off a few carrots. Place them—cut side down—on top of the pebbles. Add more pebbles to hold the tops in place. Then, add water to almost cover the pebbles. Keep the water level at that height. Put the dish in bright light.

"The leaves will eventually turn yellow, but just throw them out and start again," says Barkley.

"Parsnips also make a lovely garden dish," she adds.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

1993 Queen Mother scholarships awarded

Three former Alberta 4-Hers are the 1993 winners of the prestigious Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother scholarships.

Juliette Cailliau of Valleyview, Lorene Stone of Edson and Keith Gabert of Manning each received $1,500 scholarships recognizing their academic achievements, leadership abilities and community contributions.

Cailliau is a first year BSc in home economics student at Grande Prairie Regional College. She held many leadership roles while a member of the Wildrose 4-H Beef Club. She excelled academically and also was active in her community.

Stone, a second-year student, is studying pre-veterinary medicine at Concordia College. During her five years as a member of the Edson Lone Pine Riders she served in many club executive positions.

Gabert is a third year BSc in agriculture student at the University of Alberta. A member of several 4-H clubs for eight years, Gabert still has 4-H ties as a member of the west central 4-H alumni.

The Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother scholarship was established in 1985. The Alberta government presented the scholarship as a gift to the Queen Mother when she attended the World Angus Forum in Edmonton.

"The scholarship recognizes and assists deserving young Albertans who study agriculture, agricultural engineering, home economics or veterinary medicine (large animal). First through fourth year students are eligible," notes Jane Wheeler, 4-H scholarship co-ordinator.

Alberta Agriculture sponsors the scholarship. It is administered by the department's home economics and 4-H branch and given out in the name of Her Majesty, the Queen Mother.

Contact:	*Jane Wheeler*	*Lori McRae*
	422-4444	*422-4444*

Applications available for CAESA farm-based program

Canada-Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Agreement (CAESA) farm-based program applications are now available for 1994 projects.

"Agricultural service boards and other agricultural organizations who received project funding in 1993-94 have already been mailed a copy of the new application package," notes Randy Bjorklund, the provincial farm-based program co-ordinator.

Agricultural service boards, legally incorporated local and provincial non-profit agricultural organizations and native organizations are eligible to apply to this program. Groups that haven't received an application package can contact their nearest regional conservation co-ordinator, located at Alberta Agriculture

Cont'd on page 5

regional offices, or Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) district soil conservationists.

"This program was designed to deal with a broad range of concerns related to agriculture's impact on the environment," says Bjorklund of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. Priority issues are: soil and water conservation; protecting surface and groundwater quality; on-farm pollution affecting surface and groundwater quality; and, how these issues are related to wildlife habitat, air quality, climate, energy and genetic resources.

Projects funded during the program's first year included demonstrations of wind and water erosion prevention; crop residue management; off-site livestock watering from dugouts; and, manure and waste management. Several projects had wildlife habitat and riparian area protection components.

The application deadline for 1994-95 is January 31, 1994.

For more information, contact Bjorklund in Edmonton at 422-4385 or Craig Wood, PFRA in Lethbridge, at 382-3100.

Contact: Randy Bjorklund Craig Wood
422-4385 382-3100

Agri-News briefs

Native grasslands reclamation report available

"Reclamation of Native Grasslands in Alberta: A Review of the Literature" is now available. The report was conducted to summarize current knowledge on reclamation and restoration efforts in Alberta. The comprehensive review includes: an overview of native prairie land use regulations and guidelines; a description of the dominant grassland eco-regions in Alberta; a review of common disturbances, their types, extent and biophysical effects; a description of factors influencing disturbance and reclamation; and, case study examples of natural and enhanced recovery of disturbed sites. The report was produced by the Reclamation Research Technical Advisory Committee. Reports are available for $10 (plus GST) from Queen's Printers, Publication Services, 11510 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G 2Y5. Quote report number RRTAC 93-1 when ordering. Make cheques payable to the Provincial Treasurer. For more information on the reclamation research program, contact Chris Powter in Edmonton at 427-4147.

Advantages of canola meal in video series

The advantages of canola meal are explored in a three-part video series now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's central film library. Each tape in the series presents the same basic information about canola meal as a protein source, but targets it to a specific audience. The first tape is aimed at dairy producers. The second, and longest tape at nine minutes, is for swine producers. Benefits for feedlot operators are the focus of the third video. The videos were produced by the Canola Council of Canada. For loan information, write Multi-Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Allen returns as UGG President

Ted Allen of Taber was re-elected president of the United Grain Growers (UGG) by the 15-member board of directors. Bryan Perkins of Wainwright and Ken Motiuk of Mundare were elected by acclamation to the UGG board. Both will serve three years as Alberta farmer directors. Perkins was also elected Alberta vice-president. For more information, contact UGG in Winnipeg at (204)944-5571.

November 30 early registration deadline for Alfalfa Seed School

November 30 is the registration deadline for the Canadian Alfalfa Seed School in Edmonton January 6 through 8. Late registration rates take effect on December 5. The school, sanctioned by the Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council and hosted by the Alberta Alfalfa Seed Producers Association, will be held at the FastasyLand Hotel. For more information, contact Barb or Faye in Beaverlodge at 354-2212.

Hope Line 1-800-361-8572

The Unifarm Hope line can be reached by calling toll-free 1-800-361-8572. The line is a resource link for rural Albertans who face a personal, business or other crisis. The line now operates between 9 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. A National Rural Resource Project, the line is operated from the University of Alberta. In operation since November 1, the line will be officially opened at ceremonies on November 18. For more information, call Florence Trautman at 963-6870.

Computer-aided farm management courses available at reduced cost

Alberta farmers can take a computer-aided strategic farm financial management course at a much reduced cost this winter. Valued at over $2,000, the course price is only $516.70 (plus GST). The Canada-Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) provides the rest of the funding. Courses include five days of training spread over at least two months plus follow-up one-on-one sessions as needed before April 1, 1994. This gives participants time to build on their skills. Courses will be held in Grande Prairie and Red Deer. The Grande Prairie Regional College is the site for that course November 23 and 24, December 9 and 10 and January 26. The Red Deer course runs December 6 and 7 and January 13, 14 and 28. Course pre-requisites include a home computer system and Farm Management System (FMS) accounting software. The software is available at a special educational rate of $295 (U.S.) Computer literacy and bookkeeping comfort are an asset, but not required. A second family member can attend free of charge. Enrolment is limited. For more information, contact Carla Wilchuk at Ken Agra at 468-4442.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

November 22, 1993

DEC 1 0 1993

Public meetings on department's direction

Agriculture and food industry stakeholders are invited to attend public meetings to provide input about Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's future role.

"During the meetings, participants will be asked to discuss their ideas for the future direction of the department and suggest how they would like to see resources allocated," says Walter Paszkowski, the department's minister.

After brief presentations by government and Agriculture and Food Council representatives, participants will spend about three hours in group discussions. Paszkowski will be at each meeting to listen to the discussions and to close the meeting.

The Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development will host the three public meetings. "These meetings demonstrate the Government of Alberta's commitment to listening to grass roots input," says Barry McFarland, the committee chair. "We look forward to discussions with stakeholders and hearing their ideas about the future of Alberta's agricultural industry."

Public consultation isn't new to the provincial agriculture department. In 1992 at Creating Tomorrow meetings, the agriculture and food industry confirmed its vision and goals for the future. In May 1993 the government responded with a draft white paper, "Breaking New Ground". The latest consultations will help the department develop a business plan.

Location and dates are: Grande Prairie, Grande Prairie Motor Inn, November 29; Lacombe, Memorial Centre, December 1; and, Vauxhall, Community Hall, December 2. All meetings start at 1 p.m. and run to 4:30 p.m.

Participants should confirm their attendance at any of the three meetings by calling 427-2417 or faxing 427-3005.

Contact:	*Barry McFarland*	*C.D. Radke*	*Barb Stroh*
	427-3020	*427-2145*	*427-2417*

Municipality shows leadership in grassland conservation

An eastern Alberta municipality is demonstrating environmental stewardship in action through a special plan to manage its native prairie and to protect environmentally significant areas.

In 1990 the Municipal District of Acadia considered selling tax recovery lands. But after hearing about the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, it started a process that has resulted in a land exchange and a management agreement with the province's Public Lands Division.

Cont'd t on page 2

This Week

Public meetings on department's direction 1

Municipality shows leadership in grassland conservation 1

Protect grain piles from deer with straw bales 2

Straw costs a surprise 2

Courses cover facts, options of livestock diversification 3

Provincial judging contest very competitive 3

Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Some 3,040 acres (19 quarter sections) were transferred to public lands with the municipality receiving 1,895 acres (12 quarters) of "high capability" agricultural lands in exchange. Another 8,640 acres (54 quarters) will be held by the municipality and managed by Public Lands through long-term grazing leases.

The whole arrangement was based on a study to determine any environmentally significant areas. The study revealed a variety of upland, wetland and river valley sites, some of provincial and national significance.

"This is shared stewardship in action," says Brian Evans, Minister of Environmental Protection. "I salute the co-operation and foresight of the Municipal District of Acadia, the ranchers who lease the land and the provincial government agencies and their staffs involved. The leadership and commitment in this project is commendable."

Walter Paszkowski, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister, agrees. "The long-term arrangement will provide economic stability for area ranchers who lease the native rangeland. It will also demonstrate that use is compatible with the continued protection and conservation of the wildlife habitat, the native mixed grass prairie landscape and the associated plants and animals."

"As the elected representative, I am pleased and gratified to have participated in the co-operative negotiations between the Alberta Government and the residents of the Municipal District of Acadia Valley," says Shirley McClellan, Chinook MLA. "The protection of the native mixed prairie grassland will be appreciated by generations of Albertans."

Evans presented a commemorative plaque to the municipality last week (November 18) during the annual general meeting of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

Contact: *Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus 427-2137*
KathyTelfer Nancy Boutilier
427-2391 529-3677

Protect grain piles from deer with straw bales

Producers who piled grain in their fields take note, Fish and Wildlife Services has a suggestion for keeping deer out of your grain.

"As snow cover thickens and temperatures drop, grain piles become a more attractive food source for deer," says Randy Flath, Alberta Environmental Protection problem wildlife officer.

"Then by climbing on the piles, deer often destroy more grain than they eat," he adds. "So, producers who live in areas with many deer should consider protecting their grain."

The best protection is moving grain into enclosed storage as quickly as bin space is available. If that isn't possible, producers can make a protective barrier around grain piles.

These barriers can be made from standard steel posts and game fencing. Another alternative—and a cheaper one—is to surround the grain pile with straw bales. "Use straw because hay may attract deer," notes Flath.

Producers can use either square or large round straw bales. Stack large round bales two high around the pile. With square bales, use two to three tiers than place vinyl or wood lathe fencing along the top of the bales.

"It's also important to keep the area outside the barrier clean, in other words free of grain," notes Flath. "Any grain left laying around will attract deer and may cause them to push against the barrier or make an extra effort to get over the barrier."

Contact: *Randy Flath*
427-6735

Straw costs a surprise

Both experienced and new conservation tillage farmers realize there's more to the system than a new seed drill or reducing the number of times they cultivate say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

"One of the first things producers ask about conservation cropping systems is how to handle the crop residue," says Grant Gillund, regional soil specialist based in Vermilion.

"Certainly there are questions about seed drills, types of openers and weed control, but the big question in producers' minds is how to handle all the straw and how much it will cost," he adds.

Because good crop residue management is so essential to successful reduced tillage, Neil Blue, regional economist, and Gillund took a detailed look at the farm costs of residue management. Their calculations were based on 1,500 acres of crop and a 150-head cow herd.

Chopping and spreading chaff and straw is the only cost for a straight grain farm. "This operation adds somewhere between $2 and $2.50 per tonne of material to the cost of combining according to our calculations," says Blue.

"For many producers the extra 25 horsepower required to do the chopping and spreading is a more important cost, since most combines aren't blessed with an abundance of horsepower," Blue adds.

Both were surprised at the costs associated with using crop residue as feed. "Neither of us thought that baled straw sitting in the feed yard cost a producer nearly $37 per tonne," says Gillund. The $37 includes baling, transporting and adding fertilizer to replace nutrients removed in the straw.

"This means many cattlemen are likely underpricing straw in their cattle operations," says Blue.

The specialists suggest an alternative to baling—collecting chaff, or chaff and straw, in a wagon behind the combine. "This takes about 45 horsepower from your combine, but the cost of chaff/straw sitting in your feed yard is one to two dollars less per

Cont'd on page 3

tonne than for baled straw. That's even considering the higher cost of the transporting loose, bulky material," notes Blue.

Chaff/straw piles can be "self-feed" during the winter. "Self-feeding cows directly in the field can bring costs down to $6 to $7 per tonne," notes Gillund.

"These exact dollars and cents apply only to our sample farm, but the kinds of costs and the general conclusions could apply to every cattle operation using straw or considering chaff collection," says Blue.

For more details, contact Gillund at 853-8125 or Blue at 853-8123.

Contact:	*Grant Gillund*	*Neil Blue*
	853-8125	*853-8123*

Courses cover facts, options of livestock diversification

Producers thinking of livestock diversification can get an in-depth look at production, finances and marketing at four comprehensive courses about different livestock species.

"The three-day courses are about discovering the facts," says George Rock, Alberta Agriculture Camrose district agriculturist and a course organizer. All the courses will be held at the Camrose Regional Exhibition.

Ostriches are the subject of the first of four courses. It runs November 29 through December 1. A venison course runs January 10 through 12. Bison are the topic of the February 7 through 9 course. The final course, March 7 through 9, is on llamas and alpacas.

"These courses go beyond production, or the how-tos of raising something different than traditional livestock," says Rock. "Any business has an element of risk. There are high costs and an uncertain future, but at the same time there are business opportunities.

"The situation is like the late 1960s when exotic cattle breeds started to appear on Alberta farms. Breeding stock prices were sky high. Things have settled down since then."

Besides production management, the courses will examine financial and risk management as well as marketing. For example, Jim Graham, a University of Calgary management professor, is the opening speaker at the ostrich course.

Extension specialists, researchers, producers, government officials and other experts will be on all the programs. Their topics will range through nutrition, health, facilities, marketing, transportation, insurance and import and export protocols.

"These courses are practical as well as in-depth. We're stressing the facts and exploding the myths," adds Rock. "Participants should walk out with their questions answered and an understanding of their economic and production choices. With industry participation, new and prospective producers can talk to people already in the business."

Each course costs $200 (plus $14 GST). There is a special price of $350 (plus GST) for any two of the courses or two registrants in the same course.

Registration can be by phone or fax with a credit card or business purchase order. Call 492-3029 or fax 492-1216. For more information, contact the University of Alberta's faculty of extension at 492-3029 or write: Environmental Resource Management, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2T4.

The courses are jointly presented by the University of Alberta's faculty of extension, Alberta Agriculture, the Camrose Regional Exhibition and the Canada\Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative.

Course brochures are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Contact:	*George Rock*
	679-1210

Provincial judging contest very competitive

The competition is getting closer and the judging quality is consistently getting higher at the annual provincial 4-H judging competition.

"There was a difference of only 52 points between first and 15th place at this year's seventh annual event," notes Henry Wiegman, 4-H agriculture specialist and competition organizer.

"In earlier years there were always a few 4-Hers ahead of the field, now the spread is much, much tighter," he adds.

The top 15 judges win trips to further judging competitions. They also win garment travel bags.

Charles Schoening of Pincher Creek emerged as the leader at the end of three-day, 12-event competition. Along the way he placed first in written reasons, second overall in sheep judging and second overall in beef.

Schoening chose to attend next year's Denver Western 4-H Round-up Judging Team Competition. The contest runs October 25 through 31, 1994. Joining Schoening in Denver will be Ken Adair of Brownfield, Nathan Carter of Innisfree and Maureen Mappin of Byemoor.

Runner-up in the overall competition was Laura Jeffery of Olds. Jeffery topped the dairy classes judging, placed second in thoroughbred horses, topped the judging quiz with bonus and was second in overall reasons. She'll attend the 1994 Denver National Western Stock Show from January 19 through 24.

Eight competitors will be in Regina later this week (November 25 through 29) for Agribition's International 4-H Judging Seminar. They are Kim Denis of Lacombe, Geoff Felske of Onoway, Cindy Greilach of Barrhead, Robert Klys of Carstairs, Tammy Sandberg of Burdett, Troy Schweitzer of Beaverlodge, Liz Smith of Lethbridge and Shane Uhryn of Carstairs. Chaperons are Ralph

Cont'd on page 4

Davies of Dewberry and Marguerite Stark, 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Rhonda Snider of Mayerthorpe and April Van Tol of Fairview each won a trip to the Pacific Northwest Judges School. The school at Pullman, Washington is in early February, 1994.

Other individual class winners were: Klys in dairy yearling heifers; Smith in dairy milking four-year olds; Jason Paris of Bluffton in market lambs; Uhryn in terminal sheep sires; Jody Wacowich of Redwater in market barrows; Greilach in breeding gilts; Van Tol in polo-type thoroughbred horses; Adair in draft horses; Tracy Gardner of Olds in yearling beef heifers; Felske in beef bull calves; and, Kathi McCarty of Vegreville, quiz.

A total of 69 4-H members from across the province took part in the competition sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches and Edmonton Northlands. The contest was held during Northlands' Farmfair'93.

"While competitors participated in many judging events to reach the provincial level, their knowledge is refreshed with instruction for each species before members judge the classes," notes Wiegman.

Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

Agri-News briefs

Shifting gears in video

Once successful markets and crops are no longer profitable for Alberta producers. What changed and why traditional crops are so difficult to market were discussed by a "shifting gears" panel. Alberta Agriculture taped the session featuring Joe Richter, a rural economy professor at the University of Alberta; Joe St. Denis, a producer from Morinville; Frank Kehoe, member of Alberta Agriculture's policy secretariat; and, Tom Powrie, a University of Alberta economics professor. The video includes: a thumbnail sketch of the past showing how we came to the current situation; how one producer used his entrepreneurial skills to mobilize producers to grow for export without government help; why hard spring wheat is no longer the backbone of Prairie agriculture; and, the facts driving agriculture today. The video concludes with comments made by session participants. To borrow "Shifting Gears", write the Multi-Media Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Farmfair sales results higher than '92

Livestock sales at Farmfair'93 totalled over $860,000 dollars, topping the overall 1992 figures by just over $82,000. A total of 335.25 head and one embryo were sold at 10 purebred livestock sales. The overall sale average was $2,590.72, up nearly $600 from 1992. Only two breed sale averages fell. The purebred swine sale average fell by $39 to $337. The average Maine-Anjou sale prices was $1,989 this year, down $281 from 1992. The greatest gain was at the Angus sale. The 1993 average sale price of $3,340.57 was up just over $1,200 from last year. For more information, contact Kent Dixon at 471-7194.

Regina's Agribition November 27 - December 3

The Western Canadian Agribition runs November 27 through December 3 in Regina. Agribition's many events include livestock shows, an agri-ed showcase, rodeo, grain and forage show, cowboy poetry, trade show, western art gallery and carcass show. Among the new events for 1993 is the first Canadian National Bison Show and Sale and the "First Lady Classic", an open competition for yearling beef heifers. For more information, contact Exhibition Park in Regina at (306)565-0565.

Nominations sought for 1994 soil conservation awards

Nomination forms are now available for the 1994 farm family and group conservation awards. The awards are sponsored by the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and the Western Producer. The nomination deadline is January 31, 1994 for both awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievement and leadership in soil conservation. Regional soil conservation co-ordinators can accept farm family nominations. Nominations for the group award should be made directly to the ACTS office. Six regional farm families are chosen by regional soil conservation producer advisory committees. A provincial committee then chooses the overall winner from these finalists. Award presentations are made during National Soil Conservation Week in April. Regional finalists will also receive an expense-paid trip to the 1995 conservation workshop. For more information, write Russell Evans at Box 1, Site 9, R.R. 5, Calgary, AB, T2P 2G6, call 936-5306 or fax 936-5523.

Community agri-based dovelopment conference Dec.7-8

A community agri-based development conference will be held in Saskatoon December 7 and 8. The conference is designed to provide background information for community development, specific knowledge about the process, successful organization methods for economic and social sustainability, a forum for exchanging ideas and a trade-show of support services available for community and project development. The main plenary session looks at planning projects that work. A panel will present how agri-based community projects happened with three case studies—beef/ethanol, hog and agri-processing. A number of workshops are on the agenda. Their topics include: structuring and staffing a project; selecting consultants; dealing with government and the political process; marketing agri-products at home and abroad; and, selecting agri-projects that fit the farm and community. For more information, contact Grant Wood, University of Saskatchewan extension division, at (306)966-5586.

Delegates at annual general meeting December 6-8

For 20 per cent of the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) delegates attending the annual general meeting in December will be a new experience. Eighteen of the 90 delegates were elected for the first time at producer meetings across the province during December. ACC chair Larry Sears says this year's fall producer and election meetings were "some of the busiest ever". "Producers were very supportive of the ACC's efforts in areas of the check-off plebiscite, trade, beef promotion, research and market development," he says. Resolutions passed at the 53 country meetings will be presented to the delegate body at the annual general meeting December 6 through 8 in Edmonton. Resolutions passed at the annual general meeting form the ACC's policy for the next year. For more information, contact Sears in Stavely at 549-2481 or Gary Sargent, ACC general manager, in Calgary at 275-4400.

Phone. (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

November 29, 1993

DEC 1 7 1993

Second annual Pulse Month spans three provinces

The beat of Pulse Month is getting stronger with Saskatchewan and Manitoba joining Alberta to spotlight one of the world's oldest cultivated foods.

January 1994 marks the second annual Pulse Month in Alberta. "One of our goals is to make this a national month. Having the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board and the Manitoba Pulse Growers' Association onside is another step in that direction," says Craig Shaw, an Alberta Pulse Growers Commission director.

The first Pulse Month grew out of a Farming for the Future research project conducted by two Alberta Agriculture district home economists in southern Alberta. Anne Luehr and Brenda Lea MacPhail examined consumers' changing perception of pulses—dried peas, beans and lentils. The commission used their research results as a basis for the awareness month.

"The second annual awareness month builds on what we did last year," says Luehr, Taber district home economist. Luehr is also co-ordinating Pulse Month promotions.

"We're focusing on pulses' nutritional value and how they can fit into healthy eating," she adds. Pulses provide fibre, iron, calcium, B vitamins and protein. They also contain little fat or sodium and no cholesterol.

All Alberta district home economists will receive new promotional materials. One is a "January is Pulse Month" display. There are also three new recipe cards.

"The recipes are really important because they show people how to use and how versatile pulses are," says Luehr. "The recipes are Country Cassoulet (a casserole), Milano Sausage Bean Ragou, and Pea and Bean Soup.

"The cassoulet recipe comes from Mary Fleming," notes Luehr. "Appropriately enough she hails from Alberta's bean capital, Bow Island, and does a lot of experimenting with beans."

As well, there's information to correct a myth about pulses—that they are hard to cook and always cause gas she adds.

Another element of the awareness month is letting consumers know pulses are grown locally. Alberta farmers have been growing more pulses and other specialty crops as markets open up and price returns increase compared to more traditional cereal crops.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba will do their own promotions. One of Saskatchewan's brochures highlights "sensational" salads using pulses.

For more information about Saskatchewan activities, contact Dorothy Lang in Saskatoon at (306)664-8758. For Manitoba information, contact Doug Jones in Portage La Prairie at (204)857-9237.

For more information about Pulse Month in Alberta, contact Luehr in Taber at 223-7907, Shaw in Lacombe at 782-6618, pulse commission president Renald Lamoureaux in Fort Saskatchewan at 998-5273 or any Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

Contact:	*Anne Luehr*	*Craig Shaw*	*Renald Lamoureux*
	223-7907	*782-6618*	*998-5273*

This Week

Second annual Pulse Month spans three provinces 1

Sulphur, copper and zinc for crop growth 2

Guard donkeys calf protection 2

Advisory service receives good reviews 3

Rural Alberta can reach out to HOPE line 3

Calling all Calgary area ag ambassadors 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Sulphur, copper and zinc for crop growth

Producers disappointed with this year's crop yields should take soil samples in the spring say Alberta Agriculture soil and crop management branch specialists.

"You should always check your soil's nutrients," says Ieuan Evans, provincial plant pathologist. "It's too late now for fall sampling, but it's not too late to plan spring sampling.

"In particular, if you weren't satisfied with this year's crop check sulphur, copper and even zinc levels," he adds.

Sulphur is a poorly understood nutrient even though it's classified as one of the four essential macronutrients says Doug Penny, who heads agronomic and fertilizer research. While it's the fourth major nutrient, if it's deficient it may be most important to crop production.

Sulphur deficient land has expanded in the last decade. There are two reasons for this increase says Evans. Sulphur impurities were removed in fertilizers and atmospheric sulphur emission clean-ups both decreased available sulphur.

"Canola crops, in particular, are vulnerable," says Evans. "Crop failures have been especially evident west of Highway 2." Soil analysis on these fields showed low available sulphur.

"When sulphur is low, producers who apply only nitrogen run the risk of reducing their crop yield and losing their fertilizer investment," says Elston Solberg, agronomic research co-ordinator. "We saw that in trials we did in west central Alberta."

Research done in 1990 showed adding 20 pounds per acre of sulphur at a cost of $5/ac. prevented yield losses of 6.8 and 20.9 bu./ac. Or, in dollar terms savings of over $40 and $125 respectively.

Sulphur deficiencies can also be corrected early in the growing season. Leaf cupping is one sign of sulphur deficiency. "We've seen good response in central Alberta from broadcasting ammonium sulphate on canola up to the early bolting stage," says Solberg.

Copper is a critical micronutrient for wheat, barley and oats—in that order of importance. At least three million acres of Alberta soils are prone to copper deficiency. Typical signs in wheat crops are lodging, shrivelled grains or empty heads with "take-all" symptoms, browner than usual straw and the presence of ergots.

"This year, in particular, we saw many wheat crop failures from copper deficiency," notes Evans.

Wheat yields improved by 20 to over 400 per cent on soil and crop management branch copper nutrition plots. "Some of the yield increases were on land with at least 0.6 ppm available copper, a level previously considered adequate," says Penney.

Barley crops show severe symptoms at earlier growth stages. Typical signs are shoot die back (pigtailing), pale green leaves, twisted awns and weak straw along with lodging and ergot infestations. Yields may appear normal, except for a high percentage of thins and bushel weights at 40 lbs. instead of 50. Condor, Noble and Virden cultivars are more susceptible. Duke and Harrington are resistant.

"Copper fertilized plots mature five to 10 days earlier than adjacent plots with copper deficiencies," adds Evans. "This was consistently seen and recorded in both wheat and barley."

Penny says cereal growers who suspect a copper deficiency should have their soil checked specifically for copper as well as zinc. He suggests a trial copper plot for any soil with lower than one ppm of available copper.

Small trials can be done by applying one-half to one pound of bluestone to 1/40 of an acre (approximately 20 by 50 feet). Mark the application area. For the most complete results wheat or barley should be the crop. "Significant yield responses should be seen in the first year," he says.

Zinc is also an essential micronutrient in growing cereals and oilseeds. In particular it's required for peas and beans.

"While we don't suspect zinc deficiency is widespread, scattered areas in the province are extremely deficient," says Evans. "Yield responses to zinc have been observed in peas and beans grown on irrigated land, however more research is needed."

Contact:	*Dr. Ieuan Evans*	*Elston Solberg*	*Doug Penney*
	427-7098	*427-7098*	*427-7098*

Guard donkeys calf protection

A donkey could be a cattle producer's best friend during calving time says an Alberta Agriculture problem wildlife specialist.

"Guard animals aren't a new concept," says John Bourne, regional supervisor of problem wildlife in Vermilion. "Dogs are the most common guardian. However, guardian donkeys for sheep flocks are gaining popularity here in Alberta. In the U.S., donkeys have also proven themselves with cattle, goats and other livestock."

Reliable and consistent in protecting livestock, guard donkeys are favored on remote or large, open pastures and on range conditions notes Bourne.

Guard donkeys have at least two advantages for cattle producers adds Bourne. "For Alberta cattle producers the guard donkey can be a welcome and timely relief as a protector of new-born and young calves," he says.

Nearly all of calves killed by coyotes each year are less than 10 days old. "Given the high coyote numbers during calving season and the resulting predation risk, adding a guardian donkey to your herd will go a long way in eliminating the problem of predation," says Bourne.

Not only will donkeys keep predators away, but they also calm and quiet cattle. Their soothing presence eases fear, trampling and other stress related problems brought on by the appearance of coyotes.

Cont'd on page 3

Bourne notes guard donkeys and cattle need a socialization period to get to know and feel comfortable with each other. Guard donkeys should be placed with cattle two or three months before calving to develop their full guardianship capabilities.

Large, mature gelded donkeys are the best type for guarding cattle. They should stand at least 11 hands high, or over 44 inches at the shoulder.

"Donkeys protect mainly by vision so need an unobstructed view of cattle and their surroundings, so a taller donkey is better," he adds.

Because they protect by vision, they can spend more time with the herd than a dog. Dogs patrol and mark their territory. Another advantage is that donkeys and cattle share the same lifestyle; both are herbivores.

"Guard donkeys aren't for everyone, but producers who experience continuous, or even occasional, coyote harassment or predation should consider this reliable, effective, inexpensive and environmentally safe control method that works 24-hours a day," says Bourne.

Donkeys are available in Alberta. "There are several breeders here. One told me she sold 60 donkeys this year for a variety of livestock uses," he says. Breeders prepare donkeys for guarding and other duties.

"You don't necessarily have to buy a donkey," Bourne adds. At least one breeder will lease donkeys to livestock producers. "This means you could have a donkey with your herd for calving season, but not have to keep it year-round."

For more information on guardian donkeys, contact Bourne in Vermilion at 853-8225.

Contact: *John Bourne*
853-8225

Advisory service receives good reviews

Effective and high valued is the evaluation former clients give Alberta Agriculture's Farm Financial Advisory Service.

The one-on-one consulting service is provided by practicing farmers with financial management training and experience. They help farmers assess their current financial situation and look at alternatives.

"Determining overall client satisfaction was the review's main objective," says Rudy Warawa, northeast regional co-ordinator. Warawa also instigated the review that was carried out by a private company.

"The numbers were encouraging," notes Warawa, "and led the consulting company to sum up that the service 'is regarded as effective and highly valued'."

Ninety per cent of the people interviewed said were satisfied with the service. The same percentage, 90, said they'd recommend the service to other producers. A total of 79 per cent said they'd definitely use the service again.

"Farmers find it difficult to realize this service's value until after they've participated. These statistics might encourage other producers to give the program a try," he adds.

Warawa says maintaining client confidentiality required special attention during the review. "We wanted feedback, but we didn't want to jeopardize the trust former clients had in us by giving their names and phone numbers to the private consultant."

Former clients had to consent to participate. Only first names and telephone numbers were given to the consultant.

The Farm Financial Advisory Service provides five days of confidential and independent consulting for a $100 application fee. The rest of the program's cost is picked up by the Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI).

To apply for the service, contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district or regional office.

Contact: *Rudy Warawa*
632-5400

Rural Alberta can reach out to HOPE line

There's a listening ear on the receiver of 1-800-361-8572, the Unifarm HOPE line.

The line, that took its first phone call on November 1, is designed to link rural Albertans to services and programs they may need in a time of crisis.

It's also a "listening ear" says Reg Urbanowski, the HOPE line's director. An assistant professor of occupational therapy, he's also director of the National Rural Resource Project at the University of Alberta. Many of the line's first callers were looking for that kind of support he adds. Plus callers are anonymous and their calls are confidential.

Sometimes people need someone to talk to who is removed from their situation adds Florence Trautman, project co-ordinator and first vice-president of Women of Unifarm. "Coffee table talk has ears and mouths," she says.

Callers have also asked about health and support services such as home care, and financial concerns. Lynn Copeland of Holden says she could have used a HOPE line 18 years ago when her husband lost his arms in baling accident.

"If there had been a line available, it would have saved me a lot of frustrating phone calls," she says. Services were available, but weren't linked. She and her husband, Merv, had to seek out information from several sources ranging from hospital and health unit to the local district agriculture office.

The Copelands, members of the Physically Challenged Farmers of Alberta, approached Unifarm about three years ago with a help-line concept. At the time, their concern was for farmers who were injured and needed help. But Merv says he soon realized a line offering more services would help more rural Albertans.

Cont'd on page 4

While the line provides the link to services, it also bridges the isolation some rural Albertans may feel says Trautman.

"It seems the further you go out from major cities, the more isolated people feel and the bigger their problems seem," she says. For those people, the HOPE line is about access.

Both Trautman and Urbanowski are heartened by the support the HOPE line has received.

"The first call for the HOPE line was someone wanting to volunteer," says Urbanowski. "That says a lot about rural Alberta."

"It's really exciting to get calls from people who say 'How can I help you?'," adds Trautman. Those calls have included Alberta Agriculture district home economists and an offer to share a database of provincial programs.

The HOPE line does need support she adds. It started with a shoestring budget and organizers are hoping support will follow. "We know the need is there," says Urbanowski.

"You never really know how much you can do or change people's lives until you try," adds Trautman.

One major cost is the line itself she notes. Volunteers answer the calls. Those volunteers are students from agriculture and rehabilitation medicine faculties as well as people from rural areas and the community at large.

The line is located at the university. The university also provides clerical support staff, volunteer recruitment and financial management.

"This is a tremendous project," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. "We're pleased to see the HOPE line in operation. Quite often we receive calls for help during a crisis that we can't handle."

The Unifarm HOPE line is a joint project of Unifarm, the University of Alberta, the National Rural Resource Project and the Physically Challenged Farmers of Alberta.

For more information, contact the Unifarm HOPE Line at National Rural Resource Project, Department of Occupational Therapy, Room 264, Corbett Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G4.

Contact:	*Florence Trautman* *963-6870*	*Reg Urbanowski* *492-2499*

Calling all Calgary area ag ambassadors

Agriculture ambassadors from Calgary area schools are invited to come and bring a friend to a mini-conference on November 30.

The mini-conference with round table sessions, displays and demonstrations runs from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Queens Down School in southeast Calgary.

"Two of our agricultural education co-venture partners will be making keynote presentations during the supper hour," says Betty Gabert, Agriculture in the Classroom co-ordinator. "A representative from Alberta Pool, the Agriculture Ambassador Program's major sponsor, will talk about other educational programs. In particular, the Pool's Grain Academy in Calgary.

"As well, the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association will update participants on irrigation activities and environment related issues," adds Gabert.

The program will start with a stock dog demonstration for students and the general community she notes. The demonstration will begin at 3:30 p.m.

"The round table sessions are for sharing," says Gabert. "They will be hosted by agriculture educators and the agriculture industry. Ambassadors themselves are encouraged to share their experience with agricultural awareness in their schools."

To register contact Cindy with Ag in the Classroom in Edmonton at 427-2171 or Janet Russel in Calgary at 281-5995.

For more information, contact Gabert in Edmonton at 427-2402.

Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2402

Agri-News briefs

Gainers sold to new company

A new company, headed by Burns Food, has bought Gainers Inc. from the Alberta Government. Government involvement in Gainers' meat processing business ends on December 31, 1993. The Burns partnership bought the meat processing assets of Gainers and will take over Gainers' Edmonton operations, inventories, receivables and equipment as well as its North Battleford plant and operations. It will lease the Edmonton plant for two years. Kretschmar and Magic Pantry aren't included. An offer to purchase has been made for Magic Pantry. The government will dispose of Kretschmar by December 31. The sale is conditional as Gainers employees must accept a three-year wage freeze. The federal Competitions Bureau must also approve the sale. Ian Strang, Gainers chairman, says the agreement "represents the best hope for the future of the business which Gainers has built over the years, and the best hope for the employees who work here." He also says he believes employees will understand the benefits of the Burns agreement. "Without Burns at this point, the result would be the closure of Gainers. The options are that simple." The purchase means new opportunities for Burns says Larry Harding, the company's president. "Gainers has a strong U.S. and overseas export business. Gainers is involved in businesses in which we are not involved, and that supports our corporate strategy. We also believe in the potential of meat processing based in Alberta, and these are two companies with strong historic roots in Alberta." The Alberta government took over Gainers on October 6, 1989 when the company defaulted on its financial commitments. At the same time, the government began legal action against the former owner, Peter Pocklington. The government will continue to pursue a $75 million plus claim. For more information, contact Gord Rosko, director of communications for Alberta Treasury, at 427-5364.

Balancing protection and production

Proper pesticide use is the subject of a 13-minute video now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's multi-media library. "Endangered species and pesticides: balancing protection and production" focuses on pesticide applicators and the role they play in protecting threatened native species. Proper pesticide use maintains quality of life while continuing to ensure a productive and profitable agriculture industry. The video was produced by Oregon State University in 1992. For loan information, write Multi-Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

1994 Conservation workshop January 16-19

Moving to sustainable agriculture is the theme of the 1994 Conservation Workshop and Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) 16th annual meeting. The workshop and meeting are January 16 through 19 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. The theme is aimed at providing farmers and field support staff with the tools needed to move toward a sustainable agricultural environment. For more information, contact Peter Gamache in Edmonton at 422-4385 or Russ Evans in Calgary at 936-5306.

Charolais association sponsors Olympic biathlete

The Canadian Charolais Association is helping to support Canada's top biathlete. The national organization chose to sponsor Glenn Rupertus to heighten public awareness of both the purebred Charolais beef breed and the nutritional "fuel" value of red meat. "Here's a world-class athlete who eats red meat regularly, and it has paid off in his athletic successes," says Ken Aylesworth, the association's general manager. Rupertus, 29, is from Camrose. He placed 20th at the 1992 Albertville Olympics and more recently finished fifth at the world championships. Rupertus will be a member of Canada's team at the 1994 Olympic in Lillehammer, Norway. For more information, contact Aylesworth in Calgary at 250-9242.

Second chance safety video sequel

"Farm safety, a second chance" is the sequel to "Farm safety, farm style". One family in the first video suffered an accident one day after the video was shot. Their tragic story is followed as well as those of two other families. The 15-minute video was produced by Dow Elanco. Both videos are available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's multi-media library. For loan information, write Multi-Media Branch, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Phone. (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

December 6, 1993

Alberta building Russian business contacts

Moscow has 10 million reasons—its population—for quickly developing into one of the world's major markets.

"There are opportunities for Alberta businesses in that major market place, even to go after a single percentage of that consumer market," says Ed Bristow, an Alberta Agriculture trade director.

Bristow, who specializes in developing markets, says Alberta has several ties to Russia that make Alberta business opportunities very real. One co-operative agriculture agreement dates back to 1986. Other protocols, initiatives and co-operative projects got a start through the late 1980s and early 1990s. Some Alberta agri-businesses have been active in the region for the past decade.

Alberta Agriculture has another advantage. Her name is Nadya Reshetova. An agriculture graduate from the University of Moscow, she has been involved in the Russian agriculture industry for nearly a decade. Her first trip to Alberta was seven years ago as part of a Russian agriculture minister's official mission.

For the last two years she's been a link between Canadian, and specifically Albertan, and Russian business interests. Historically agri-business has been in livestock genetics and production technology. Now as Russia looks to meet its food needs and increase productivity, Reshetova's network has stretched to other agriculture-related businesses, particularly food processors.

"Now we're looking for opportunities to bring food companies to Russia," she says. A recent 10-day trip to Alberta is one of two annual trips she'll make. While here she met with both government officials and a number of private companies. "We're trying to identify potential partners to establish Alberta food products in Russia," she adds.

Russians and Russian companies are particularly interested in technology transfer add both Bristow and Reshetova. "Productivity needs improvement on most levels," Bristow notes.

The potato industry is a prime example. Sharing technology could improve everything from how potatoes are grown to how they are marketed says Bristow. Potatoes are a major Russian crop, but nearly half of the crop is lost due to poor storage facilities says Reshetova. Farm storage technology is needed. New products and product development are business doors ready to be unlocked. Handling, including distribution and marketing, could all be improved.

"We have a lot of that capability right here from the technology and the seed stock to processing and packaging potato products," says Bristow.

Russia has also identified other products such as processed meat and dairy products as lacking and needed.

"There are some limitations," adds Bristow. "Some are financial and some are infrastructure related."

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Alberta building Russian business contacts1 1
Farm training the "Green" way 2
Training commitment key to farm growth 2
Green Certificate as a family affair 3
New business management Green Certificate program 3
Treasure hunt to farm safety 4
Alberta 4-Her tops international judging contest 4
Christmas tree care tips 5
Briefs 5
Coming Events 7

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Reshetova plays an invaluable role in business development such as co-ventures between Alberta and Russian companies. She speaks fluent English and knows agricultural science and technology.

Bristow says that knowledge makes her able to do more than translate. Words do need to be translated, but so do ideas.

"There is a difference between translating and interpreting ideas so information is truly exchanged," says Bristow. "Nadya knows the science as well as the social and political environments. That makes her a valuable member of our marketing team."

For more information on market and business opportunities in developing economies, contact Bristow in Edmonton at 427-4241.

Contact: Ed Bristow
427-4241

Farm training the "Green" way

For 18 years Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate program has offered a practical way to start a farming career.

Program details have changed through the years, but the basic concept remains the same—hands-on learning on a farm supplemented by off-farm courses.

The curriculum comes from the industry. Three levels of training move the apprentice farm worker from skills of the basic technician to those of a farm manager. The trainee is tested and certified at each level before moving on. Green Certificate programs include cow-calf, dairy, feedlot, swine farrow-to-finish, sheep, field crop and irrigated crop production.

"Level one is basic technical training," says Robert Hornbrook, supervisor of farm training. "In the classroom, trainees learn about personal work skills, money management, animal health care fundamentals, first aid and fire control."

On the farm, trainees learn the practical skills of farming. For example, handling pigs covers routine procedures with baby pigs and weaning. When trainees can do all the skills, they are tested by two other farm trainers.

Level two moves into management and supervisory skills. The final level focuses on farm business management training. "Level three has recently been revised with assistance from the Canada\Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI)," adds Hornbrook. (See separate story.)

In the past trainer-employers were paid to do the training. "Even though that's no longer the case, employers are still choosing to use Green Certificate," says Hornbrook. "They tell us the benefits of the time they take to do the training doesn't require financial compensation. As well, the program is now open for parents to train their children."

For more information on the Green Certificate program, contact Hornbrook in Edmonton at 427-2173 or your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Robert Hornbrook
427-2173

Training commitment key to farm growth

Simon Goodwin believes the limiting factor in business growth is people. That's why his Shooter's Hill Livestock employees have Green Certificate training.

Goodwin and his partner started with a 300-head farrow to finish hog operation near Calmar in January 1988. Now the business is expanding to 700-head and Shooter's Hill will eventually employ six full time staff.

Current employees all have done or are doing the Green Certificate program. One will manage the new barn. Another is working on level one and level two training even though he has a university agricultural degree. A new employee started last month. "And he primarily wanted to take the job because we offer a training program," notes Goodwin.

"Without people we wouldn't be able to grow to the size that we are going to have, or won't be able to obtain the levels of performance and profitability that we want," he adds. A key ingredient in that growth is Green Certificate training.

Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate program has been around since 1975. Since then hundreds of program graduates have filled jobs as technicians, herdsmen and farm managers. The program itself has changed through the years, up-dating course requirements and adapting to less government funding. For example, trainers are no longer paid a fee for providing training.

This doesn't bother Goodwin. "I believe that any business that is going to grow, or even survive, in the future has to be committed to training and has to be responsible for training. And if that means being responsible financially, then the rewards that you get back outweigh the value of the financial support you get paid for training," he says.

As a trainer and an employer Goodwin does have expectations from the Green Certificate program. He sees the program as developing employees skills and knowledge so they can take responsibility and be involved in all aspects of running the farming operation. That means they're adding value to the operation, so the employer can offer better wages and job security.

Green Certificate training is hands-on learning. Goodwin calls this "powerful" as theory is turned into practice.

Wilfrid Weber manages Weyga Farm near Camrose. His involvement with Green Certificate goes back a dozen years.

Weyga Farm employees have taken cow-calf and grain production courses. He says he's impressed with how the course content has improved and changed through the years.

Each course outlines general work skills, such as preparing, fertilizing and seeding land in the field crop production certificate course. This general area is broken down into specific skills such as operating seeding equipment in the field and preparing equipment for off-season storage.

Cont'd on page 3

Green Certificate offers programs in swine farrow-to-finish, dairy, cow\calf and feedlot production. Field crop, irrigated crop and sheep production were recently re-introduced.

Both Weber and Goodwin are from Europe and both believe farm apprenticeship-type programs have great value. "You have another chance of learning on someone else's farm," notes Weber. Goodwin says apprenticeship training yields a workforce with practical skills, and gives it a competitive edge.

"The feedback we get is that Green Certificate is a viable training program," adds Robert Hornbrook, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of farm training. "Course participants learn new skills and their certificate enhances their career opportunities. Some employers even make it a job requirement."

More than 140 people were involved in Green Certificate training in 1992-93.

For more information on the Green Certificate program, contact Hornbrook in Edmonton at 427-2173 or your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Robert Hombrook
427-2173

Green Certificate as a family affair

Parent child relationships often have a "do what I say" element. This takes on a new meaning when the parent is the Green Certificate trainer and the child is the trainee.

For one parent being his son's Green Certificate trainer forced him to take the time to explain why he does something, not just tell his son to do it. Dennis Van Beek of Coaldale shares this tidbit with a laugh.

Van Beek's son Doug has completed level one training as a dairy technician and has moved on to level two training. Doug says he got a lot out of his "home schooling"; more practical information than his year at agricultural college.

"The potential for family Green Certificate training opened up with some changes to the program," say Robert Hornbrook, supervisor of the Alberta Agriculture farm training program. "Trainers are no longer paid to do the training. When they were, parent-child training situations weren't funded."

Dennis Van Beek is a Green Certificate graduate himself. The program was how he got into farming again as he changed careers. He can now see the program from both the point-of-view of the trainer and the trainee. He's been trainer for both an employee and his son. He says he appreciates the program more because he's come through both sides. And that perspective made him willing to get involved as a trainer without any financial incentive.

Ari Schenk agrees the program is worthwhile. His son Ian, who didn't take any formal agricultural training, is currently working on level two dairy skills. "I want him to have it even if I have to pay for it," says Ari. Schenk says he can see his son gaining knowledge and even acknowledges that can mean discussion. "Dad isn't always right," says Ari.

Ian has taken over breeding and feeding programs. He says the Green Certificate program gave him good grounding in dairy production. He also valued the time spent in the classroom with other Green Certificate trainees. "I got the most information from talking to other people in the program," he says.

For the Schenks there was another benefit for the farm business that was beyond the business. "It was a bonus for me to have my father as a trainer," says Ian, "because we get along well. But it's also strengthened our relationship."

For more information on the Green Certificate program, contact Hornbrook in Edmonton at 427-2173 or your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Robert Hombrook
427-2173

New business management Green Certificate program

While production skills are basic to farming, farm business management skills are more critical to how profitable the farm will be.

To that end, Alberta Agriculture's Green Certificate program is offering a new level three training program in farm business management.

"Most level one and two training is on-farm with some off-farm course work. In level three there are many more off-farm learning activities, but the training does have a practical side," says Robert Hornbrook, supervisor of farm training.

"Students have to set up real or simulated farm enterprises so they can apply the skills they are learning," he adds.

The level three course is a joint project with the Canada\Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI). Students receive monthly instruction, but complete their work assignments back on the farm.

"As with all Green Certificate training this level allows the trainee to gain skills and be certified while still earning a living," says Hornbrook. "But, more importantly it opens up career and business opportunities for the trainees. Whether they are planning for their own farm business or working for someone else, their skills will better the industry as a whole."

The first level three training will start in January 1994. For more information, contact Hornbrook in Edmonton at 427-7123 or your local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Robert Hornbrook
427-2173

Treasure hunt to farm safety

Rural Alberta school students will soon begin searching for treasure while they learn about farm safety.

The 17th annual "Child's Guide to Farm Safety" is now available to Alberta school jurisdictions. School superintendents are sent order forms for their schools. A total of 40,000 are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"The guide has been a popular base for a farm safety unit in elementary classrooms," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program. "We're proud to continue this fine program of children learning about injury prevention from other children. Student artwork and essays from a province-wide contest are featured in the guide.

"And the guide wouldn't be possible without the continuing support of our sponsors," he adds. TransAlta Utilities and Nova Corporation returned as 1993-94 guide sponsors.

The 1993-94 guide is a "Prairie pirate adventure" on the HMCS Safety. It invites students to search for precious treasure. Their treasure search takes them through a number of activities—from find-a-word to matching hazard symbols with their meanings. All the activities have a safety message. They cover water, chemical, electrical, animal, machinery, tool, fire and pipeline safety.

"Students will discover the most precious treasure for themselves at the end of the workbook, but I'm not giving away the answer," says Kyeremanteng.

The guide also features the students whose work was chosen for the guide. All 23 are pictured as farm safety "mates" in the guide. As well, they will receive prizes.

Prizes will be presented during early December at the winners' schools. (See attached list for all winners. Contact the farm safety program for more information.)

Supporting audio-visual materials are also available through Alberta Agriculture's multi-media library in Edmonton.

Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng 427-2186 Jacqueline Galloway 427-2186

1993-94 student winners in "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety"

(presentation date in brackets)

Melanie Strid, Grade 3, Teepee Creek School, Sexsmith (Dec. 1)
Coreen Tunke, Grade 4, Dixonville School (Dec. 2)
Stephanie Cave, Grade 4, McGrath Elementary, Peace River (Dec. 2)
Bruce Johnson, Grade 5, Pipestone School, Millet (Dec. 3)
Amber Adair, Grade 4, Falun School (Dec. 3)
Michelle Dallyn, Grade 3, Dr. Folkins Community School, Chauvin (Dec. 3)
Jordan Ratzlaff, Grade 4, Provost Public School (Dec. 6)
Cory Flanagan, Grade 1, New Cessford School, Cessford (Dec. 7)
Kendra Sereda, Grade 5, Rolling Hills School (Dec. 8)
Colin Beierbach, Grade 4, St. Thomas Aquinas, Medicine Hat (Dec. 8)
Natasha Briltz, Grade 5, Foremost School (Dec. 9)
Kenny P. Waldner, Grade 5, O.K. Colony School, Warner (Dec. 9)
Kris Heidolf, Grade 5, Blackfalds School (Dec. 9)
Laura Stillman, Grade 4, Canyon Elementary, Pincher Creek (Dec. 10)
Kayla Baxter, Grade 4, Manachaban School, Cochrane (Dec. 10)
Jena Christiansen, Grade 1, Rocky Elementary, Rocky Mountain House (Dec. 13)
Elizabeth Thompson, Grade 3, Mannville School (Dec. 15)
Andrea Gould, Grade 4, Vermilion Elementary (Dec. 15)
Brent Reschke, Grade 1, Barrhead Elementary (Dec. 16)
Katie Hermanutz, Grade 6, Dapp School (Dec. 16)
Westley Nadeau, Grade 5, Dapp School (Dec. 16)

Alberta 4-H tops international judging contest

Alberta 4-Hers continued a string of strong showings at Agribition's International 4-H Judging Seminar capturing three of the top seven spots including a first place overall finish by Shane Uhryn.

Uhryn of Carstairs was joined in the top seven by Troy Schweitzer of Beaverlodge who was sixth and Elizabeth Smith of Lethbridge who was seventh at the competition in Regina.

"Five of the eight team members placed in the individual classes," says Henry Wiegman provincial 4-H agricultural specialist. "Not all of them had a lot of experience judging. Kim Denis of Lacombe, for example, placed second in the horse class and this was only her third time at a judging competition."

Along the way to the overall title, Uhryn placed first in the horse class. Smith was second in the swine class and fifth for oral reasons. Schweitzer was fourth in dairy. Tammy Sandberg of Macleod was fifth in the beef class.

Other team members were Geoff Felske of Onoway, Cindy Greilach of Barrhead and Robert Klys of Carstairs. They were accompanied by chaperons Ralph Davies, 4-H leader from Dewberry, and Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

"Our eight team members had a very good competition beyond any results," says Wiegman. "The team competed against 4-H teams from across Canada as well as Montana. The experience is terrific."

The Alberta team earned their trip to Regina during the recent provincial competition held in Edmonton. Their trip is sponsored by Uniblok Canada, a division of Superior Feeds, located in Rockyford.

Cont'd on page 5

"Uniblok has sponsored this activity for the last five years," notes Wiegman, "To mark this anniversary we recognized the company with a special plaque before the team left for Regina."

Wiegman presented a plaque to company general manager Pat Wegner. The plaque listed the names of all the trip participants over the last five years.

Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

Christmas tree care tips

Choosing a fresh tree and maintaining the tree when you get it home are keys to less needle drop and to reducing fire risks says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"A cut Christmas tree is traditional," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "But some people find it a nuisance with the needles it sheds. It can also be a fire hazard."

Barkley's first tip is to choose a tree that stays fresh longer. Scots pine and balsam fir stay fresh longer than Norway or white spruce.

"When you select a tree, try it out," she says. Stand the tree up, then gently tap the butt on the ground. If lots of needles drop off, the tree is likely too dry. Stiff and brittle needles and small branches that are easily broken when bent also indicate a dry tree.

"Once you chose your tree, it's important to keep the tree as fresh as possible," she adds. Keep the tree outside with its butt end in the snow or in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it inside.

Once inside, cut off two inches of the trunk. Cut on the diagonal to give the maximum surface area for water absorption. As well, anti-desiccants can be applied to the foliage to help reduce the rate of drying in the house.

Where you put up the tree is also important. A cool room away from heat sources such as fireplace, heating vents and television set are best. Be sure tinsel isn't near any electrical outlets and the tree is away from flammable drapes. Check bulbs on light strings. Every socket should have a bulb and no bare wires should show.

"Water is the most critical part of tree care," she adds. Place the tree in a sturdy stand with the butt end emerged in a large reservoir of water. The tree stand should hold at least one litre.

"Adding a flower preservation to the water is also an excellent idea. **Never** let the reservoir go dry," she emphasizes.

Water usage will be greatest during the first three days, so watch the water level. The warmer and drier the house, the more moisture a tree will lose. As well, larger trees will use more water.

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Huge market gains for canaryseed

The canaryseed market made huge gains during November says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "In mid-October cash bids were near the eight cent level. By mid-November bids were at 16 cents per pound and later hit 20 cents," says Al Dooley of the market analysis and statistics branch. Dooley says one factor is a smaller than expected 1993 crop. Early summer estimates were in the 170,000 tonne range. "Now estimates are 40,000 tonnes less, and some traders think the actual number may be closer to 100,000 tonnes in total," he says. Annual exports are in the 80 to 90,000 tonne range. "A small crop would explain the surging prices, although tight holding by farmers is probably also a factor," he adds. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Pea prices steady

Pea prices were steady through November says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "The 1993 crop was of reasonable quality so a stronger green pea market is unlikely," says Al Dooley. "On the other hand, the yellow market is very attractive," he adds. "Shop around for the best possible price," he advises. The feed pea market is relatively good at between $4.10 and $4.30 per bushel. "This is a good price considering the size of the 1993 pea crop," he adds. A weak Canadian dollar is also a factor in the pea market. "But," he warns, "unless exports are exceptional this fall, the feed pea market will likely weaken in the spring. So, you should consider selling into the current market." For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

Lamb prices to climb through winter

After taking a breather in November, Alberta lamb prices should begin a gradual climb through the winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "If the Canadian dollar holds at its current 75 to 76 cent U.S. range, Alberta lamb prices above a dollar per pound seem likely this spring," says Ron Gietz. He forecasts average Alberta slaughter lamb prices at $105/cwt. in April. Canadian lamb prices already are much higher than year-ago prices. Tight U.S. lamb supplies and the weak Canadian dollar are both factors. In late November, railgrade bids for lamb at Canada West Foods in Innisfail were $1.80 per pound. At the same time last year prices were $1.31 per pound. Slaughter lamb prices in other Alberta markets were comparable. Feeder lamb sales in Edmonton were reported between $95 and $105.50 per hundredweight. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Rally twists hog outlook

A fall rally in U.S. corn prices added a new twist to the long term hog outlook says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Sharply higher feed prices could influence expansion decisions by mixed farm operators in the Midwest," says Ron Gietz. "Also note, larger commercial operations that account for an increasing share of production, aren't influenced by price swings in input or product markets," he adds. Through November North American slaughter hog prices were in full retreat. Marketings decreased with the season and slaughter weights were high. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast 1994 production on par with 1993's output. "This forecast implies average hog prices very similar to this year's levels in the coming year," says Gietz. "As with other commodity markets, the Canada/U.S. exchange rate will affect overall prices." For more information, contact Gietz at the market analysis and statistics branch in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Dollar and weather factors in cattle markets

The Canadian dollar and U.S. weather are the two key factors in fed cattle prices in the next months says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "I based earlier forecasts on an appreciating dollar from November on, but it looks like the dollar will hold in a 75 to 76 cent U.S. range," says Ron Gietz. "This means higher prices," he adds. Last year a succession of winter storms in the central U.S. added several dollars per hundredweight to cattle prices. "The U.S. fed cattle market will respond to any adverse weather this winter with higher prices," notes Gietz. "However, in the absence of major storms, beef supplies are high and American fed cattle prices are more likely to trend sideways." Gietz forecasts Alberta direct steer sales (ADS) at $89 dollars for December and January 1994, and up to $92 dollars by March. Gietz says feeder cattle producers should also keep a close eye on the fortunes of the Canadian dollar. "With a weak dollar in 1994, feeder cattle prices will likely hold near current levels," he says. Narrow feeding margins mean a stronger dollar would trigger a quick negative price reaction he adds. For more information, contact Gietz in Edmonton at 427-5376.

Price into canola rally

Local cash canola prices in the top third of their historical price range are a sign for producers to sell into the rally says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "Cash prices were over $6.50 a bushel in late November and I don't see more than a 25 to 30 cent per bushel drop in the short term market," says Larry Ruud of the market analysis and statistics branch. "The upside is also limited to about 25 cents," he adds. "There's an outside chance of $7 per bushel, but it would take a significant increase in U.S. demand and problems with the South American oilseed crop." The risk of dropping prices increases in early spring with preliminary estimates of U.S. soybean and Canadian canola planting intentions. Ruud says producers should also consider pricing opportunities for their '94 crop. "A price of $6.30 to $6.40 per bushel should cover your production costs," he says. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Top wheat grade prices up, No. 3 and feed not

Prices for number one and two grade wheat has picked up this fall says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst. "However, prices for number three and feed wheat haven't increased to the same extent," says Larry Ruud. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) currently forecasts a pool return of $140 to $150 per tonne for #1 CWRS basis delivery Vancouver/Thunder Bay. "For a local price, deduct about $23 per tonne for shipping and elevation," he adds. "Wheat grading number two likely will have its traditional $5/bu. discount." Feed and number three grades typically run at respective discounts of $25 and $15 per tonne. "Based on world prices, it wouldn't be surprising to see the discount widen to $35 and $20 per tonne for these grades," says Ruud. For more information, contact Ruud in Edmonton at 427-5386.

Pulse growers meet December 9 and 10

"Pulses International" is the theme of the fifth annual Alberta Pulse Growers Commission meeting December 9 and 10 in Lethbridge. The annual meeting features international speakers including the president of the International Pulse Trade and Industry Confederation as well as a field pea industry expert from Europe. Concurrent sessions include up-to-date research, weed and disease control, and market outlooks. A pre-conference tour will go the Alberta Pool bean plant in Bow Island. For more information, contact the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission office at 782-7838.

Two AIA Edmonton branch meetings in December

The Edmonton branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists will meet twice in December. December 7 is lunch at the Edmonton Hilton as part of the expert committee on weeds workshop. The branch's annual Christmas lunch and auction is December 14 at the Derrick Club. For more information, contact Alan Hastie at 449-8652.

Coming agricultural events

National expert committee on weeds
Edmonton Hilton
Edmonton December 6-8
Denise Maurice - 427-2530 - Edmonton; John O'Donovan - 632-8208 - Vegreville

Alberta Cattle Commission annual general meeting
Edmonton Westin Hotel
Edmonton December 6-8
Ron Glaser - 275-4400 - Calgary

Advanced farm welding
Lakeland College
Vermilion December 6-10
Christina Arvidsson-Kupchenko - 1-800-661-4127

Herbicide resistance workshop
Edmonton Hilton
Edmonton December 9-10
Denise Maurice - 427-2530 - Edmonton; John O'Donovan - 632-8208 - Vegreville

Grooming and showmanship of beef cattle
Lakeland College
Vermilion December 18
Chris Spasoff - 853-8566 - Vermilion

Wheat grower convention '94
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg January 5-7
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association - (306) 586-5866 - Regina, Saskatchewan

Canadian Alfalfa Seed School
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton January 6-8
Barb Neuman or Faye Swanson - 354-2212 - Beaverlodge

Scours seminar
Olds College
Olds January 10
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

Canadian Agricultural Outlook Conference
Ottawa Conference Centre
Ottawa January 10-11
Agri-Outlook Conference - (613)231-4225 - Ottawa, Ontario

1994 Saskatchewan crop production week
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan January 10-14
Joan Heath - (306)668-2380 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Unifarm 1994 annual convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton January 11-13
Shirley Dyck - 451-5912 - Edmonton

Western Canadian crop production show
Saskatchewan Place
Saskatoon January 11-14
Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition - (306)931-7149 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Small engine repair
Olds College
Olds January 12 (10 Wednesdays)
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

Farm electrical system maintenance
Lakeland College
Vermilion January 12-18
Christina Arvidsson-Kupchenko - 1-800-661-4127

Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants annual meeting
Westin Hotel
Edmonton January 13-15
Keith Johnson - 842-2288 - Wainwright

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association annual convention and trade show
Marlborough Inn and Convention Centre
Calgary January 14-15
Ron Axelson - 250-2509 - Calgary; or 1-800-363-8598

Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer January 14-16
Les Burwash - 297-6650 - Calgary; Bob Coleman - 427-8906 - Edmonton

1994 provincial conservation workshop and ACTS 16th annual meeting
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton January 16-19
Peter Gamache - 422-4385 - Edmonton; Russ Evans - 936-5306 - Indus

Calving successfully
Olds College
Olds January 17
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

Alberta Canola Producers Commission & Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission joint annual convention
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge January 18-20
Pansy Molen - 452-6487 - Edmonton

'94 Banff pork seminar
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff January 18-21
Judy Carss - 492-3232 - Edmonton

Ecology and Ecosytem Managment I
University of Alberta

Edmonton January 20-21
Michael Splinter - 492-3035 - Edmonton

Home-Based business conference and trade show
Saskatoon January 20-22
Lilias Brown/Harold Baker - (306)966-5406/5591 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canadian West Equipment Dealers Association annual general meeting and convention
Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon January 20-22
William J. Lipsey - (403)250-7581 - Calgary

Canadian Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute annual general meeting
Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon January 21
William J. Lipsey - (403)250-7581 - Calgary

Canadian Bull Congress
Camrose Exhibition
Camrose January 21-22
Exhibition office - 672-3640 - Camrose

Crop rotations conference
Saskatoon January 24-25
Grant Wood - (306)966-5586 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

1994 Provincial Agricultural Service Board conference and trade exhibition
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary January 24-26
Jeff Porter - 652-2341 - High River

Farm diesel engine and fuel system maintenance
Lakeland College
Vermilion January 24-26
Christina Arvidsson-Kupchenko - 1-800-661-4127

Alberta branch - Canadian Seed Growers' Association annual meeting
Banff Park Lodge
Banff January 25-27
Bill Witbeck - 782-4641 - Lacombe

Cowboy feedlot school
Olds College
Olds January 25-28
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

Pesticide applicator training tutorials
Lakeland College
Vermilion - Class A, D, G, January 25-28, March 29-April 1
Edmonton - Class D, February 15-17
Edmonton - Class G, March 9-11
Christina Arvidsson-Kupchenko - 1-800-661-4127

Vern Sapergia reining clinic
Lakeland College
Vermilion January 28-30
Chris Spasoff- 853-8566 - Vermilion

Introductory calving workshop
Lakeland College
Vermilion January 29
Chris Spasoff- 853-8566 - Vermilion

Agriculture in the Classroom (founding meeting) Prairie Council
Saskatoon January 30-31
Betty Gabert - 427-2402 - Edmonton

Alberta Federation of REAs 1994 convention
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton February 2-4
Provincial REA office - 454-7691 - Edmonton

3rd International dairy housing conference
Orlando, Florida, USA February 2-5
American Soceity of Agricultural Engineers - FAX (616)429-3852
St. Joseph, Missouri

Canadian Association of Exhibitions
Edmonton February 4-7
Elwood Hart - 474-1902 - Edmonton

Pond raising rainbow trout
Lakeland College
Vermilion February 5
Chris Spasoff- 853-8566 - Vermilion

Society for Range Management annual meeting
Broadmoor Hotel
Colorado Springs February 13-18
Jerry Schwien - (303)355-7070 - Denver, Colorado

1994 Direct Seeding workshop: Designing a Sustainable Agricultural System
Lloydminster Exhibition Grounds
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan February 14-15
Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association - (306)787-0558 - Regina, Saskatchewan

A.I. & Herd Improvement
Olds College
Olds February 14-18
March 14-18
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

Western Barley Growers Association 17th annual convention & trade fair
Banff Park Lodge
Banff February 16-18
Kathryn Cooper - 291-3630 - Calgary

Xeriscaping: Landscaping for the Future
University of Alberta
Edmonton February 17-18
Michael Splinter - 492-3035 - Edmonton

Local Agriculture and the Global Environment: What's the Connection? (sponsored by Sustainable Agriculture and Global Environment [SAGE] and CUSO)
University of Alberta
Edmonton February 18-19
Shirley Ross - Edmonton - 421-4387

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) annual convention
Lloydminister February 18-20
Wendy Pruden - 427-2174 - Edmonton

Xeriscaping: An Introduction for Homeowners
University of Alberta
Edmonton February 19
Michael Splinter - 492-3035 - Edmonton

University of Saskatchewan agricultural technology week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon February 21-25
Bruce Hobin - (306)966-5551 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Alberta Soil Science workshop
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton February 22-24
Len Kryzanowski - 427-6361 - Edmonton

Western Canadian Dairy seminar (12th annual)
Capri Centre
Red Deer, February 22-25
John Kennelly - 492-2133, Edmonton; Brian Cameron - 427-8906, Edmonton

4th annual Agriculture Ambassador Fair
Camrose Regional Exhibition
Camrose February 24-25
Betty Gabert - 427-2402 - Edmonton

Prairie Ventures
Prairieland Exhibition
Saskatoon February 24-26
Ag Programs Mgr. - (306)931-7149 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Broodmare and stallion management
Lakeland College
Vermilion February 26
Chris Spasoff- 853-8566 - Vermilion

Bio-Oils symposium
Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon March 2-3
Zenneth Faye - (306)675-4926, Foam Lake; John Christen - (306)975-0262, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Seed fair and hay show
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 5-8
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

94th annual Calgary bull sale
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 6-8
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Agriculture Week
Alberta March 6-12
Bard Haddrell - 427-2127 - Edmonton

Agricultural Classic
Evergreen Park
Grande Prairie March 10-12
Exhibition office - 532-3279 - Grande Prairie

Agriculture Education Network Association annual meeting and conference
Grande Prairie March 10-12
John Melicher - 451-5959 - Edmonton

One day A.I. refresher
Olds College
Olds March 12
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

AgVenture '94
Cypress Centre & Exhibition grounds
Medicine Hat March 17-19
Anna - 526-5214 - Medicine Hat

Environmental Audits: An Effective Part of Environmental Management
University of Alberta
Edmonton March 18
Michael Splinter - 492-3035 - Edmonton

Little Royal Open House
Lakeland College
Vermilion March 18-20
Cathy MacKenzie - 853-8544 - Vermilion

Dairy Classic
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 21-27
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Northlands Farm and Ranch Show
Agricom
Edmonton March 22-25
Northlands - 471-7210 - Edmonton

Aggie Days
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary March 23-26
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation annual meeting
April 5-7
Gloria Prochinsky - 474-8288 - Edmonton

Cattle hoof trimming
Olds College
Olds April 5-8
April 12-15
Extension Services - 556-8344 - Olds

National Soil Conservation Week
April 10-16
Barb Shackel-Hardman - 422-4385 - Edmonton

Team cattle penning
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary May 14-15
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

4-H on Parade
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 3-5
Joan Cool - 261-0162; Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Livestock judging seminar
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary June 6-8
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

National Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association and international conference
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge June 12-16
John Calpas - 320-3311 - Lethbridge; John Whitehead - 320-3313 - Lethbridge

Calgary Exhibition & Stampede
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede
Calgary July 8-17
Joan Cool - 261-0162 - Calgary; or, 1-800-661-1260

Klondike Days Exposition
Northlands
Edmonton July 21-30
Northlands - 471-7210 - Edmonton

Grasslands Sheep Exhibition
Assiniboia, Saskatchewan - July 22-24
Garry Noble - (306) 642-7227 - Assiniboia, Saskatchewan

Farmfair '94
AgriCom and Sportex
Edmonton November 4-12
Northlands - 471-7210 - Edmonton

Note: Alberta communities host a number of local fairs. Because there are so many, they are not listed in the "Coming Agricultural Events" list. A list of agricultural society fairs was compiled by the community and rural services branch and is available by writing the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. Please quote Agdex 007.

Coming agricultural events notice form

Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in late 1993 or 1994? Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

1. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by February 25, 1994 to:

Agri-News Editor
Publishing Branch
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed March 7, 1994)

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

December 13, 1993

JAN 4 1994

Map to long-term fall moisture trends

By using more than a decade of information two Alberta Agriculture specialists have mapped areas that are frequently dry in the fall.

"This long-term analysis calculates the frequencies of dry conditions based on the low and very low soil moisture categories in our annual map of fall stubble soil moisture," says Al Howard, soil moisture specialist.

Low moisture soils have good surface moisture but poor subsoil reserves with less than 75 mm of plant-available water. This isn't enough moisture to support growth past the seedling stage. Timely and adequate rainfall is needed for average yields.

Soils in the very low category have fair to poor surface moisture and less than 25 mm of plant-available water. This moisture level isn't enough for successful germination. Once seeding is complete, immediate rainfall is needed for any seedling growth.

Howard and John Bell, a draftsman in the conservation and development branch, used a Graphics Information System (GIS) to assess the long-term trends. Alberta Agriculture has produced fall soil moisture maps since 1982.

They found dry falls occur most often, more than 75 per cent of the time, in southeastern Alberta. Most areas of eastern Alberta and the Peace River region have dry falls more than half of the time.

"These two areas cover a large part of eastern Alberta," notes Howard. The total area is roughly bordered by a line extending from Foremost to Vulcan, then north to Strathmore and northeast to Lloydminster." [See attached map.]

West central Alberta into the Swan Hills is the area least likely to experience a dry fall. That's 25 per cent of the time or less.

"Although this map doesn't show it, all parts of Alberta have experienced dry fall conditions at least once since 1990," adds Howard.

Fall soil moisture conditions represent conditions before freeze-up. Moisture testing is done through October. It's supplemented with precipitation information and observations by Alberta Agriculture district and regional staff.

Howard says average winter snowfall and temperatures add about 50 mm of moisture. "This generally results in favorable recropping conditions in western, central and southwestern Alberta.

"Most of eastern Alberta and the southern Peace have experienced dry recropping conditions in at least three of the last six years," he adds.

Late winter and early spring storms can improve moisture reserves considerably.

Cont'd on page 3

This Week

Map to long-term fall moisture trends 1

Cows will eat snow 3

Snow harvest demonstration underway 3

Succeeding in the horse business 4

New Zealand sets tone for MAP'94 4

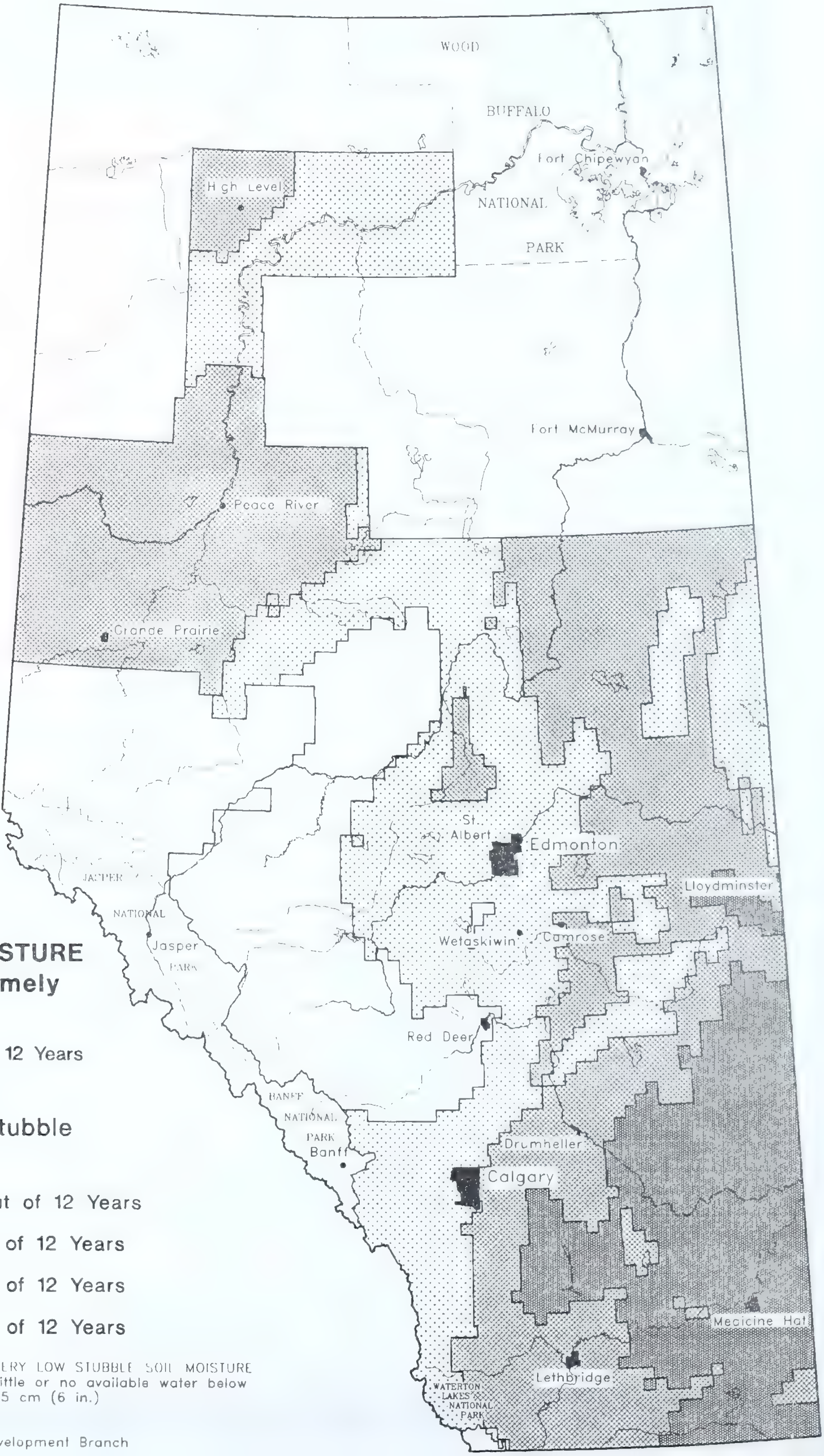
They shoot computers don't they? 5

Bringing spring indoors for winter 5

Briefs 6

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters


WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
Fort Chipewyan
High Level
Fort McMurray
Peace River
Grande Prairie
St. Albert
Edmonton
Lloydminster
JASPER
NATIONAL
Jasper
PARK
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Camrose
Red Deer
BANFF
NATIONAL
PARK
Banff
Drumheller
Calgary
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK
N

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
Frequency of Extremely Dry Falls

Analysis of Information From 12 Years of Fall Data (1982 - 1993)

Low or Very Low Stubble Soil Moisture:

▩ 10 - 12 Years out of 12 Years

▨ 7 - 9 Years out of 12 Years

⬚ 4 - 6 Years out of 12 Years

☐ 0 - 3 Years out of 12 Years

LOW STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
Subsoil moist to about
45 cm (18 in.)

VERY LOW STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
Little or no available water below
15 cm (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

A report and map of long-term spring soil moisture levels is also available from Alberta Agriculture. For more information, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861 or Bell in Edmonton at 422-6530.

Contact:	*Al Howard* *381-5861*	*John Bell* *422-6530*

Cows will eat snow

Providing cattle with an uninterrupted water supply in the winter doesn't have to be a challenge says an Alberta Agriculture livestock specialist.

"Most producers consider a water supply disruption a major problem," says Pat Ramsey. "Other producers aren't concerned and choose to let their cows lick snow."

The merits of cattle getting their water from snow has been controversial he adds. However, a University of Alberta study suggests cows can substitute snow for water without any harmful effects.

In theory, eating snow should require more feed energy to melt and warm the snow. However in the university's study, feed intakes and liveweight gains were similar between groups with water and those with only snow. "Apparently heat from feeding and normal body metabolism are more than enough to melt the snow and bring it to body temperature," says Ramsey.

"What this means for producers is if there's adequate snow quality and quantity, they don't have to risk life and limb by chopping holes in ice or watering cattle on ice.

"However, snow quality and quantity need to be monitored through the winter," he adds. "Remember too, that animals in pens or small fields don't have the same opportunity to eat snow as animals on an open, winter range."

Bruce Young and associates of the University of Alberta started their study with three basic questions: If beef cattle don't have access to water, will they eat snow? If they do eat snow, is the amount the same as what similar cows drink when they have daily access to water? And, does it take some time for cattle to switch to snow when water access is gone?

In one study, pregnant cows were fed a daily ration of 4.5 kg of alfalfa pellets plus brome hay. They were divided into four groups—penned with water; penned with snow supplied in buckets; in a field with water; and, in a field with naturally-fallen snow. The average weekly air temperature ranged between 8°C and -24°C. Snow cover on the field was between 20 and 40 cm for most of the trial.

"The simplest answer to the questions are that cattle will eat snow, it initially takes them a day or two to adjust and overall eating snow doesn't have harmful effects. Plus, all the cows in the study calved without difficulties," notes Ramsey.

Cattle did show behavior changes, such as bellowing and searching for water, when they didn't have access to water. After two days they licked and ate snow. Later in the winter, when switched from snow to water and vice versa, the cows readily accepted the change.

Ramsey does note cows preferred loose, powdered snow they could sweep up with their tongues. They avoided lumps of hard, icy snow. They tended to eat more snow on warm days than cold days.

Weaned and growing calves may be more affected by a switch to snow he adds. In another trial, researchers looked at weaned calves with access to water and with access to snow. Over a 112-day period, the average daily gain of the snow calves was 0.55 kg and 0.68 kg for the water calves

"With larger numbers of animals in each treatment, the average daily gain differences between the snow and water calves may have become significant," says Ramsey.

Contact: *Pat Ramsey*
853-8127

Snow harvest demonstrations underway

Alberta farmers need to harvest one more crop each year to take advantage of what nature gives them. The "crop" is snow.

"Snow is a natural resource that blows past most farms and ranches each year," says Darcy Fitzgerald, an agrologist with Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch.

"It can increase potential water supply, especially for dugouts that rely on snow melt runoff each spring for most of their water," he adds. "Trapping snow for a dugout could make the difference in your next year's water supply."

Twenty-five to 30 per cent of each year's precipitation comes as snow he notes. "You have the potential to put some of that snow where you want it. The cost is low and the benefits many."

Typically snow fence installation costs are from 65 cents to $1.60 per foot. Besides adding to your water supply, trapping snow at a dugout can help eliminate many water quality and quantity problems related to runoff. "As well, enhancing your dugout water supply with a snow fence is a perfect fit if you already limit livestock access to your dugout," he says.

Engineering services has set up three snow harvesting demonstrations in different locations. Each one will show how snow fence around a dugout can trap snow for the dugout says Fitzgerald.

One demonstration is two miles east of Clyde (along Highway 18). The second is near Vegreville (eight miles north on Secondary 857 and one mile west on Warwick Road). The third is four miles north of Medicine Hat (along Highway 41). The farmer project co-operators respectively are Percy Kirby, Mike Yurko and Greg Pahl.

Alberta Agriculture district and regional staff, Public Lands staff, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) staff, Tensar

Cont'd on page 4

Corporation and the United Farmers of Alberta are also involved in the snow harvest demonstration projects.

Contact:	*Darcy Fitzgerald*	*Bob Buchanan*
	427-2181	*674-8256*
	Orin Kenzie	*381-5112*

Succeeding in the horse business

Two long-time and successful horse breeders will share their experiences at the 1994 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference next month in Red Deer.

Jim Bell, founder of Jonabell Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, and Jim Eller, co-owner of Granada Farms in Wheelock, Texas will both explore the business of horses during the three-day conference January 14 through 16.

Bell's topic is breeding and marketing decisions for farm profitability. "The Bells have bred colts that fetched seven figures at auctions, but more impressive is that they've consistently had good horses in an industry known for quick success and quick exits," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture horse specialist.

While Jonabell has stressed quality, the business has also been flexible. Other equine-related family businesses are now part of a family corporate umbrella.

Eller's Granada Farms is an equine services company currently managed by his son. It's a large operation. During the 1993 breeding season over 900 mares were bred to 18 stallions. Other services include foaling, embryo transfer and sales preparation services.

"His topic is the cost of tradition," notes Coleman. "He'll touch on costs related to a family business and ways of doing business, as well as looking to the future using appropriate technology."

The conference, one of the foremost for horse enthusiasts in North America, features internationally recognized speakers. Registration is still only $75 per person, and $50 more for each person from the same farm. For registration and other information, contact Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906 or Les Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650.

Contact:	*Bob Coleman*	*Les Burwash*
	427-8906	*297-6650*

New Zealand experience sets tone for MAP'94

Western Canadian farmers will put on the proverbial "other shoes" when a New Zealand farm leader describes vanished income support programs and changed agricultural policy at the 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'94) conference.

"Our farmers may face the same experience in the mid-1990s as New Zeland farmers went through a decade earlier," notes Alan Ford, conference chair. "Brian Chamberlin, past president of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, will share his country's experience from cash crunch to a now prosperous industry thriving in the global marketplace."

Chamberlin will be the keynote speaker for the first two days of the conference February 1 and 2. MAP'94 concludes February 3. It will be held at Red Deer's Capri Centre.

"He'll set the tone for the rest of the day," says Ford. Day one Chamberlin will outline the political and economic changes in New Zealand since 1984. He'll emphasize macro-economic issues in the agriculture and food industry.

MAP's concurrent sessions during the first day will also focus on macro-economic issues, but in Western Canadian agriculture. They include: nutrition "mythconceptions"; a short-term Canadian economic outlook; Alberta's new Environmental Protection Act; weather patterns; the changed grain marketplace; and, a panel discussing the truth about what we eat.

To open day two, Chamberlin will focus on how New Zealand farmers reacted to a loss of income, how production changed, how income levels changed, how farm organizations responded and how farm suppliers and retailers changed.

Concurrent sessions for day two emphasize strategies for successful farm managers. Topics include family communication on the farm, short-term crop and livestock outlooks, insurance as a management strategy, management records, retirement planning, secrets of high yield producers and transferring the family farm.

"Day three also has a touch of New Zealand," says Ford, a senior planning officer with the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). "It starts with a session that asks the question whether Canada should see New Zealand in the mirror."

Daryl Kraft, agricultural economist, will discuss the similarities and differences. Doug Radke, Alberta Agriculture's deputy minister, will discuss the department's role in helping farmers adjust.

MAP'94 is joint project of ADC and Alberta Agriculture. Alberta Agriculture, in partnership with other organizations and companies, has presented an annual farm management conference since 1978.

Single day and three-day package registration packages are available. Single day registration is $80.25 per person or $133.75 per couple. The three-day package price is $187.25 per person or $294.25 per couple. The fee includes GST and meals.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture and ADC district offices. Registrations before January 14, 1994 qualify for a special early bird prize.

Contact:	*Alan Ford*	*Donna Fleury*
	421-8911, ext. 1720	*556-4240*
	679-1720	

They shoot computers, don't they?

If you're not certain practical, computer and farm fit together in the same sentence, the 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP) conference has just the session for you.

The conference, February 1 through 3 in Red Deer, covers a wide range of farm business management topics. Alberta Agriculture specialist Bruce Waldie will offer a session designed to help cure computer techno-phobia.

"Computers are becoming more common on Alberta farms," notes Waldie. "They can be a very practical part of your farming operation and help with everything from production to financial records.

"It's not too late to start using a computer," he adds. "You aren't behind the times if you are just now looking at getting a computer."

Waldie will deal with three main subject areas. The first is a history of the relationships between agriculture and computers. The other two subjects are computer hardware, the equipment, and software, the programs.

"I like to use a partial budget-based approach to hardware," he says. He'll describe the specific and basic minimum hardware components such as monitor and hard drive and their cost. He'll also explain what "one step up" is and how much it costs

Buying software starts with the farmer's need, he adds, and then how to shop the market to fill that need.

Waldie's session is scheduled for February 3, the final day of the conference. It's one of 15 concurrent sessions offered over the three days. Other concurrent sessions on February 3 are diversified livestock production, holistic farming and the frontiers of biotechnology. The final day also includes a debate on the fuel ethanol industry and whether Canada will take New Zealand's path of ending farm income support programs.

"One advantage of MAP is being able to come for a single day," notes conference chair Alan Ford of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). MAP'94 is a joint project of ADC and Alberta Agriculture.

Single day registration is $80.25 per person or $133.75 per couple. The three-day package price is $187.25 per person or $294.25 per couple. Registration includes GST and applicable meals.

"MAP is designed for the farm management team, so couples are encouraged to attend and conference costs reflect that," adds Ford.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture and ADC district offices. Registrations before January 14, 1994 qualify for a special early bird prize.

Contact:	*Bruce Waldie* *556-4243*	*Alan Ford* *421-8911, ext. 1720* *679-1720*

Bringing spring indoors for winter

Forcing bulbs can bring the color and fragrance of spring into your house during winter's dark, cold months says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Crocus, hyacinth, narcissus (paper whites) and tulips are the most commonly forced hardy spring bulbs. Others like winter aconite, snowdrops, dwarf iris, grape hyacinths, daffodils and scillas can be forced as well," says Shelley Barkley of the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks

'Container choices are only limited to wide and low pots," she adds. Bulbs are shallow rooted so the container does not have to be deep. A wide pan will allow a better show of color, since it will hold more bulbs than a standard pot. The container also needs to be large enough to hold the bulbs without them touching each other or the container sides. Containers can have drainage, but this isn't necessary.

Hyacinth glasses are special containers for growing hyacinths and crocus. The glass is clear so the bulb's root growth can be seen. The bulb is held above the water level. A few pieces of charcoal will keep the water sweet.

Soil has to hold the bulb up and act as a water reserve. "A well-drained soil is best," she notes. In fact paper whites, hyacinths and crocus can be grown in pebbles.

House-plant potting soil is suitable, but it should be well-draining. If soil appears to have a lot of peat moss, add perlite to improve drainage, advises Barkley. Or, mix your own with one part pasteurized loam, one part peat moss and one part perlite.

Begin by soaking potting soil. The mix should cling together when squeezed without oozing water.

Next prepare the container. Containers without drainage holes need a layer of pebbles with a sprinkling of charcoal. The charcoal helps keep the soil sweet.

Fill half the container with soil. Place the bulbs pointy side up, close together but not touching, on the soil. Add more soil until the bulbs are completely covered.

"Hyacinths and narcissus are exceptions," she adds. "They prefer to have their necks sticking out of the soil."

Firm the soil around the bulbs for support, and then water thoroughly.Cover the planted container with aluminum foil or slide it into a black plastic bag. Place the containers in a cool location with temperatures between 5 and 10°C, either in a fridge or a cold room.

Check pots occasionally for moisture and wait for shoots to appear. Depending on the bulb variety this process can take from four to 12 weeks.

Once shoots are sticking up five cm, the containers can be moved into a cool spot—between 10 to 15°C—with indirect light. "This step is important, since moving the bulb to a warm sunny

Cont'd on page 6

spot will cause the flowers to develop too quickly and be of poor quality," notes Barkley.

Once flower buds are showing color, move the container into a warm—18 to 20°C—spot with full light. "But," she adds. "keeping the pot out of intense light helps to keep the flowers longer.

When growing narcissus, hyacinths or crocus in pebbles, the process is the same except pebbles with charcoal bits replace the soil. Wedge bulbs into the pebbles and add water.

"Be sure one-eighth of an inch of air is between the bulb base and the water, or the bulb will rot," she notes. Maintain the water level, and handle the bulbs the same way as those planted in soil.

"There is a way to skip the cooling process. You can buy pre-cooled bulbs," says Barkley. "Check with your local garden center or nurseryman to find out if the bulbs they sell are pre-cooled."

Contact: Shelley Barkley
362-3391

Agri-News briefs

Wheat grower convention Jan.5-7

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association will hold its annual convention January 5 through 7 in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg Commodity Exchange will hold a full scale market simulation at the opening President's Reception. Conference topics include marketing in North American, value-added tips and high-tech crop management. Other conference features are tours of MacDon Industries and Ford New Holland plus a new trade show. For more information, contact the association's office in Regina at (306)586-5866.

Calendar promotes international year of the family

The Red Deer branch of the Alberta Home Economics Association has a special way for you to celebrate International Year of the Family. The group has produced a 1994 wall pocket calendar featuring Alberta families doing a variety of activities. Fun ideas and inexpensive activities are listed beside each picture to encourage positive family experiences. The calendar's pockets are great for storing bills, receipts, school notices and other important papers. "The calendar will be a constant reminder in our homes that 1994 is International Year of the Family. Families need positive messages that the day-to-day things they do together are valuable and important. We hope our tips will encourage families to do more inexpensive activities together," says Kay Dean, branch member and Stettler district home economist. Any profits from the calendar sale will go to family centered agencies during 1994. The Alberta Women of Unifarm supported the project. Calendars are $10. Send a cheque to AHEA Red Deer IYF, 3719-62 Street, Stettler, Alberta, T0C 2L1. For more information, contact Betty Birch in Stettler at 742-0732 or Dean at 742-5716 (home) or 742-7500.

Oats researcher honored

An Agriculture Canada researcher was awarded the first Kirylchuk Award for outstanding contributions to the oats industry. Solomon Kibite is based OATS in Lacombe. He was presented with the award during the recent Oat Producers Association of Alberta annual meeting. Kibite developed Jasper and Waldren oat varieties as well as two new and promising varieties. He's currently researching the impact of aluminium toxicity on oats. "Dr. Kibite is not only a highly respected plant breeder and researcher, but he was also a moving force in the development of the association. He made the first phone calls which eventually resulted in the association being formed. We are deeply grateful for his commitment and foresight," says Lawrence Kapitski, current association president. The award is named for the association's founding president Peter Kirylchuk of Lac La Biche. For more information, contact Glen Binnington in Edmonton at 444-0066.

Eat teams with Olds College in an edufarm

Eighty years ago Olds College started as a demonstration farm and now will return to those roots as it teams with the EAT (Excellent Agri-Foods Team) Institute to develop an EduFarm. The college and the institute are amalgamating their services. EAT has donated its existing program materials, data base of industry contacts and other assets. The five-year-old institute had offered user-pay education tours, sci-energizer days camps and mentorship programs from its Calgary base. The EduFarm will provide educational tours to schools, businesses and industries.

Cont'd on page 7

Existing facilities from greenhouses to riding stables will be part of what the tour offers. The college will deliver the tours with advice from EAT Institute board members. Similar educational-tourism ventures around the world have been successful. For more information on EduFarm, contact Lloyd Quantz, dean of extension services, at 556-4734 or Sharon Carey, vice-president of student and support services, at 556-8337.

Home-based business conference, trade show in Saskatoon

The first Saskatchewan home-based business conference and trade show will be held January 20 and 21 in Saskatoon Knowledge and skills are the focus of the conference. Speakers and seminar leaders will give specific, how-to information on starting a home-based business. The trade show features services and supplies suited to a home office. Program sponsors include the University of Saskatchewan's extension division and the Saskatchewan Home-Based Business Association. For more information, contact Lilias Brown or Harold Baker in Saskatoon at (306)966-5406 or (306)966-5591.

Manitoba ag days Jan.11-13

Manitoba Ag Days run January 11 through 13 at the Brandon Keystone Centre. Three days of speakers and displays include new crops and enterprises sessions, agricultural inventions and displays, agricultural forecasts, the Manitoba Beef Seminar and the Manitoba Forage Council annual meeting. Activities run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (204)275-1424.

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Phone (403) 4[illegible]

AGRI-NEWS

December 20, 1993

JAN [illegible]

Agriculture Alberta's past, present and future says minister

A founding cornerstone in Alberta's economy, the agriculture and food industry will play even a bigger role in the province's future says Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's minister.

Farmers and ranchers are where the industry starts. The province's producers account for 20 per cent of Canada's primary agriculture production. Their products—such as beef and oats—are known worldwide.

Primary production is only one part of the industry. Through the years more and more processors have built and expanded the food side. Since the early 1970s, Alberta has quadrupled its revenues in the food and beverage sector. Currently they generate about $5.3 billion dollars.

"This is where future success lies," says Walter Paszkowski, "and I'm confident Alberta's agriculture and food industry will continue to add value to our basic, and increasingly diversified, commodities. One in three jobs already is related to the agriculture and food industry.

"Value-added products, whether boxed beef, pasta or cookies, mean an extra return to our economy in export dollars and more jobs. That's why I say agriculture is Alberta's future, not its past.

"We have the resources to compete globally," he adds. "Alberta already has a reputation for high-quality, safe and environmentally friendly products. Trade agreements, whether North American or the global GATT, are opportunities. Alberta companies are already lining up new customers in Mexico. They continue to build export ties in the Pacific Rim and find niches in the fledgling open markets of Eastern Europe."

Paszkowski also acknowledges there are still some rough roads and tough battles ahead. They include bringing down interprovincial trade barriers, adjusting to new GATT rules, re-opening the continental barley market, reforming the Western Grain Transportation Act and developing an effective, whole-farm approach to agricultural programs.

"Our department is also making some difficult decisions as part of the province's overall emphasis on fiscal responsibility," Paszkowski adds.

"Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's objectives haven't changed. The department will continue to deliver needed programs and services. Both programs and services will be directed to increasing farmer returns from the marketplace.

"Industry itself has helped us focus on what it thinks we should do, first through Creating Tomorrow and more recently through a series of public meetings. These latest consultations will help us develop the department's business plan."

One visible change is the merger of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) and the Alberta Hail and Crop

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Agriculture Alberta's past, present and future says minister 1

The truth about what we eat at MAP'94 2

The future's in food 2

Kentucky connection at horse conference 3

Local flavor at Horse Owners and Breeders Conference 3

Fertilizer tips for irrigated crops 3

Briefs 4

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

Insurance Corporation. They will become the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation with one management team and one board of directors. Other agencies, divisions and branches have been merged and more amalgamation is likely.

Strategic partnerships are another way the department has reallocated funding and kept services alive. Private sector businesses are taking over some services the department used to provide.

"Department staff, just as the industry, will be working smarter and not just harder in the future. The future is bright with an industry that's ready to move ahead whether growing new crops or finding new processing possibilities," Paszkowski says.

"Opportunities are the presents under the agriculture and food industry's Christmas tree in 1993. They are there to be used in 1994. If they are, then the Christmas bounty will continue to grow.

"In that spirit, my wish and hope for the agriculture and food industry and the people who give it its strength is for health and prosperity."

Contact: *Dwight Dibben or Brian Hlus*
427-2137

The truth about what we eat at MAP'94

Nutrition misinformation, quackery, wishful thinking and controversy abound, so Helen Bishop MacDonald is commited to exposing nutrition "myth"conceptions.

MacDonald will tell how to recognize the difference between nutrition nonsense and nutrition information at the 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'94) Conference. The conference runs February 1 through 3 at Red Deer's Capri Centre.

One of Canada's foremost nutrition authorities, MacDonald has written nutrition columns, lectured medical students on nutrition, planned menus for Olympic athletes in Calgary in 1988 and was a consultant for several large companies' occupational health departments. She has written two books, **The Total Fibre Book** and **Eating for the Health of it**.

MacDonald says nutrition is more than knowing the four food groups and Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating, it's also being able to tell the different between legitimate and "fanciful" nutrition information.

Fighting food myths is part of MAP's first day. MacDonald's nutrition session will run once in the morning and the afternoon. A second session, featuring three home economists in "the truth about what we eat" panel discussion, will run twice in the afternoon.

Panel members are Kathy Keeler of the Beef Information Centre, Jane Carlyle of the Alberta Egg Marketing Board and Brenda White of the Dairy Nutrition Council of Alberta.

"Some producers and their organizations are frustrated by headlines and other messages consumers receive about red meats, milk and eggs," says Karen Goad, the panel moderator.

"This panel will give producers nutrition, food quality and food safety facts they can use to present a more balanced point of view," adds Goad, acting Alberta Agriculture regional food and nutrition specialist.

MAP'94 is joint project of ADC and Alberta Agriculture. Alberta Agriculture, in partnership with other organizations and companies, has presented an annual farm management conference since 1978.

Single day and three-day registration packages are available. Single day registration is $80.25 per person or $133.75 per couple. The three-day package price is $187.25 per person or $294.25 per couple. The fee includes GST and meals.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture and ADC district offices. Registrations before January 14, 1994 qualify for a special early bird prize.

For more information, contact Alan Ford, conference chair, in Camrose at 679-1720 or Edmonton direct line 421-8911, extension 1720, or Donna Fleury, conference co-ordinator in Olds at 556-4240.

Contact:	*Karen Goad* *227-6565* *679-1720*	*Alan Ford* *421-8911* *ext. 1720*	*Donna Fleury* *556-4240*

The future's in food

Four words paint the picture of tomorrow's agriculture industry—the future is food.

A one-day seminar in Westlock on January 17 will explore value-adding to primary agricultural products with a global perspective of the food trade, a food entrepreneur panel and a discussion of how to add value to fruits and vegetables.

"Adding-value to food products is key to a thriving agriculture industry," says Kerry Engel, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Westlock and a seminar organizer.

"Selling basics, like wheat and beef, aren't enough anymore. They don't generate enough dollars or jobs," she adds. "Natural resources aren't enough. Wealth comes from what we create from those resources, or how we add value to them."

A whole chicken versus chicken fingers is one example of value-adding. A roasting chicken sells at under $2 per pound. Uncooked chicken fingers sell at more than $6 per pound.

"Our food entrepreneurial panel will tell how they've accomplished that kind of value-adding," says Engel.

The panel features Alex and Donna Hamilton of Olds and their Hamilton's Barley Flour; Bow Island's Tom Droog and his SPITZ sunflower seeds; and, Bob and Enid Plumb from Smoky Lake and their B and E Ranches that include a bison meat company and a bed and breakfast inn.

Cont'd on page 3

The seminar starts with a look at the global food trade. William Heffernan, from the University of Missouri, has researched social consequences of changes in agriculture.

A former Alberta Agriculture researcher is also on the agenda. Branka Barl will discuss adding value to fruits and vegetables. While at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Centre, she researched new food, non-food value-added products and innovative processing methods. Currently she's interested in agri-food diversification and small business development.

Pre-registration is required by January 13. The registration fee is $28 and includes a "best of Alberta" lunch. Cheques can be made payable to the MD of Westlock and sent to Engel at Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Box 429, Westlock, Alberta, T0G 2L0.

For more information, contact Engel in Westlock at 349-4465 or Gail Lemke in Stony Plain at 963-6101.

Contact: Kerry Engel
349-4465

Kentucky connection at horse conference

Say Kentucky and most people immediately think of horses, so it's not surprising two feature speakers at the 1994 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference are coming from Kentucky.

Gary Carpenter is the keynote and lead-off speaker at the conference in Red Deer January 14 through 16. The conference is one of the foremost for horse enthusiasts and business in North America.

Carpenter's topic is leadership in the horse industry. "Carpenter knows about leadership and the industry from a number of angles," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist.

Currently Carpenter is executive director of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He is also a member of the executive committee of the American Horse Council and several breed associations. He's worked in the industry in a variety of positions since 1980 and is a lifelong horse enthusiast.

Norm Luba's topic puts computer technology into the horse business. Luba teaches horse management and computer applications for the horse industry at the University of Louisville.

"His presentation will help participants answer an important question in this technical age—whether they need a computer in their horse operation," says Coleman.

The Horse Owners and Breeders Conference attracts internationally recognized speakers on a variety of horse industry topics. The conference offers session streams for Thoroughbred, Arabian and Quarter Horse owners and breeders as well as an all-breeds program.

Registration is $75 per person and $50 more for each person from the same farm or organization. For more information, contact Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906 or Les Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650.

Contact:	*Bob Coleman* *427-8906*	*Les Burwash* *297-6650*

Local flavor at Horse Owners and Breeders Conference

While many of the expert speakers at the 1994 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference hail from the U.S., the conference also features Western Canadians in the know about horses and the equine industry.

The conference, known as one of the outstanding in North America, is January 14 through 16 in Red Deer. It features a variety of topics and speakers in three specific streams — Thoroughbred, Arabian and Quarter Horse — as well as an all-breeds program. The topic range runs from production to marketing.

"We do draw from what could be called 'local' expertise as well as well-know international experts," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist.

Two of those "locals" are from Saskatoon. Nadia Cymbaluk teaches at the University of Saskatchewan's animal science department. Her topic is managing orphaned foals. Jonathan Naylor will look at an genetic disease, hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP) in Quarter Horses. Naylor is a teacher and researcher at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Two of the other speakers are from central Alberta. Innisfail veterinarian Bill Crawford has an extensive background in teaching and researching equine medicine and surgery. His conference topic is bandaging horses for all reasons.

Art Gallais is an internationally recognized farrier and teacher. Currently he's head farrier and instructor of Olds College's farrier science program. He'll tell conference participants how to recognize a good shoeing job.

For more information on the conference, contact Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906 or Les Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650.

Contact:	*Bob Coleman* *427-8906*	*Les Burwash* *297-6650*

Fertilizer tips for irrigated crops

Guidelines for fertilizing irrigated grain and oilseed crops are outlined in a new Alberta Agriculture publication.

"The publication is based on research between 1982 and 1990," says one of its authors, Ross McKenzie. McKenzie is a soil fertility specialist based in Lethbridge.

Soft white spring wheat, hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, Prairie spring wheat, malt barley, feed barley, oats, canola and

Cont'd on page 4

flax fertilizer needs are summarized in the factsheet, "Fertilizing Irrigated Grain and Oilseed Crops" (Agdex 100/541-1).

"By following the guidelines farmers can apply optimal levels of fertilizer to achieve best yields while keeping application rates at environmentally sustainable and responsible levels," he adds.

Recommendations are for three levels of irrigation management—average, intermediate and optimum. The reason, says McKenzie, is because it isn't possible to keep all crops irrigated at an optimum level. Most irrigation systems aren't designed to keep up to maximum water requirements.

Maximum fertilizer rates are also set down in the 27-page factsheet. There are a couple of reasons not to exceed the suggested limits says McKenzie. For example, if soft white wheat gets too much nitrogen its protein level increases. Second, too much nitrogen may result in nitrate nitrogen movement out of the root zone and into the ground water.

"Both of these situations are undesirable. In the first case, high protein content is undesirable for cookie and pastry flour. In the second, the nitrate nitrogen movement is an environmental concern," notes McKenzie.

Suggested fertilizer rates can be used in two different ways. One method is picking a target yield and then a corresponding fertilizer rate. The other is by using yield increase charts plus the fertilizer cost to estimate the crop's value and determine an economic rate of fertilizer application. McKenzie suggests using a two-to-one rate of return, so the last dollar spent on fertilizer returns a two dollar profit.

"A soil test must come before any fertilizing," reminds McKenzie. "This determines available nutrients in your soil. A soil test is the cornerstone to developing a sound fertilizer management program."

The publication also has specific information on phosphorus, potassium, sulphur and micronutrient requirements of each crop grown on irrigation.

As well, the publication details various types of fertilizers and how they should be handled and applied. The nutrient value of animal manures and how they should be handled is included.

The publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, or by writing Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact:	*Dr. Ross McKenzie*	*Len Kryzanowski*
	381-5126	*427-6361*

Agri-News briefs

Irvine rancher environmental stewardship winner

Dewayne Good of the M Bar Ranch is the second winner of the Alberta Cattle Commission's Environmental Stewardship Award. Good was selected for his stewardship of semi-arid rangeland and riparian areas on his ranch southeast of Medicine Hat. He uses a low-impact, low-intensity grazing system that takes into account livestock and wildlife needs through both wet and drought years. Low stocking rates ensure adequate forage for wildlife on critical summer and winter range. Good has worked with a variety of groups including the Society for Range Management, Alberta Agriculture's public lands division, Ducks Unlimited and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). A judging committee, with conservation, agriculture and government representatives, examined nominees' stewardship goals, range and riparian management accomplishments and leadership in community stewardship activities. The award was presented at the commission's annual general meeting earlier this month. The commission is already accepting nominations for the 1994 award. For more information, contact Ron Glaser in Calgary at 275-4400. Good can be reached at 834-2204.

Canola and winter wheat producers holding joint convention

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission and the Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission are holding a joint convention January 18 through 20 in Lethbridge. The convention kicks off with a look at North American marketing of grain and oilseeds. A marketing panel follows. Concurrent sessions include direct seeding, canola meal, the canola production centre, crop rotations, canola varieties and an update on the proposed Mercury terminal. For more information, contact Pansy Molen, convention co-ordinator, in Edmonton at 452-6487.

Agricultural service board conference January 24-26

Challenges, changes and choices is the theme of the 1994 provincial agricultural service board conference. The conference runs January 24 through 26 at the Calgary Convention Centre. Delegates will examine the agricultural issues local governments face. Theme speaker is Bob Church, a Calgary rancher and prominent geneticist. The convention opening address features Ron Hanson of the University of Nebraska and his topic, the unspoken words of family farming. Hanson will also talk about improving communications to build stronger working relationships and avoiding common mistakes that lead to conflict. Also on the agenda is a look at environmental and animal rights movements. A trade fair is also part of the convention. The conference is hosted by the region two Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen. For more information, contact Tim Dietzler at 230-1401 in Calgary.

Farm ownership planning in three phases

Farm families can learn more about planning for the farm and the future through a three-phase farm ownership planning course. The Wetaskiwin Alberta Agriculture district office offers the first phase starting in early January. This beginning phase has three steps—looking at expectations, business arrangements that match dreams to reality and ownership options. Phase two is retirement planning. It covers retirement lifestyle, goals and values as well as retirement costs. The final phase is how to make farm ownership transfer and retirement happen. This starts with outlining a plan, confirming it and then completing the plan. The first phase is $15 per farm unit (up to four people). The second phase is $20 per couple. The fee for phase three hasn't been finalized. Whole farm management, farm record keeping and computer courses are also offered. For more information on courses in the Wetaskiwin district, call 361-1240. For more information on courses in your area, call the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

4-Hers make their message matter

Sixty-five senior 4-H members learned how to make their message matter at a seminar earlier this month. The weekend course focuses on communication skills. It prepared delegates to return to their 4-H club and teach members and leaders how to communicate more effectively. "Seminar sessions dealt with creating and delivering effective speeches and demonstrations, preparing appealing presentations and learning how to recognize a target audience then marketing presentations appropriately," says Arron Madson, 4-H provincial personal development specialist and seminar organizer. "Senior members are one of our best resources," he adds. "These are enthusiastic kids who do a great job helping junior club members. By helping senior members formalize their skills, we are assisting all 4-H members. There is a terrific trickle down effect." This was the fourth year Norcen Energy co-sponsored the seminar with Alberta Agriculture. For more information, contact Madson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

Barley commission hands out awards

An Alberta Agriculture researcher received the 1993 leadership award from the Alberta Barley Commission. Jim Helm is head of crop research at Alberta Agriculture's Field Crop Development Centre in Lacombe. Helm has worked extensively in developing barley varieties. The award was presented during the commission's annual meeting earlier this month. Two barley growers were also recognized during the meeting. Don Taylor of Pincher Creek and Bernard Ulliac of Atmore won the barley yield competition. Taylor topped the six-row non-irrigated category. His Leduc barley yielded 118.9 bu./ac., 265 per cent higher than the five-year average in his census division. In the two-row non-irrigated competition, Ulliac's Herrington yielded 110.9 bu./ac. This yield was 252 per cent higher than the five-year average for his census division. The yield competition awards were sponsored by CIBA-GEIGY. For more information, contact the commission in Calgary at 291-9111.

Olds college offers agriculture courses in new year

Olds College's extension services has a full course line-up of interest to cattle producers. January has three courses. A one-day scours seminar is scheduled for January 10. Tips for calving successfully are offered on January 17. The annual Cowboy Feedlot School is January 25 through 28. Artificial insemination (AI) and herd improvement courses are offered twice. Once in February from the 14 through 18, and again in March, the 14 through 18. A one-day AI refresher course is March 12. Cattle hoof trimming is on the agenda twice in April. First from the 5 through 8 and again April 12 through 15. A small engine workshop starts January 12 and runs for 10 Wednesdays. For more information, contact extension services in Olds at 556-8344.

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CFIEI comes west

For only the second time in its 26-year history, the Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment (CFIEI) will hold its annual meeting outside the Toronto area. The 1994 meeting will be in Saskatoon starting on January 21. The Institute will meet in joint and concurrent sessions with the Canada West Equipment Dealers Association whose annual convention is January 20 through 22. For more information, contact William Lipsey in Calgary at 250-7581.

Swine handlers workshop January 18

Improved stockmanship leads to improved productivity is the message Australian Paul Hemsworth will bring to an afternoon workshop on January 18 at Olds College. Hemsworth is a renowned authority on the effects of stress and the interaction between stock and their handlers on swine production. The workshop will help stock people to understand this interaction and apply Hemsworth's principles to their own operation. The workshop is sponsored by the Pig Industry Discussion Group. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The deadline for the $20 registration fee is January 14. Registration forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices and from regional swine specialist. For more information, contact Art Lange in Edmonton at 427-5319, Peggy Johnson at Olds College at 556-8281 or Alan George, with Pigs Unlimited in Lethbridge at 320-8263.

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AGRI-NEWS

December 27, 1993

JAN [illegible]

Research centre testing double shoot openers

Increased interest in direct seeding with airseeders prompted one of the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre's latest projects.

Research testing of 13 different double shoot openers on air seeders and air drills started this summer. The 13 openers are from eight manufacturers.

"We began with the soil bin and then moved out to the field in the fall. The project will continue into the spring," says Lawrence Papworth, a project engineer.

"An interim report on the 1993 results will be available in January," he adds.

Tests in the indoor soil bin measured seed and fertilizer placement, and vertical, lateral and horizontal force requirements. "With the soil bin all the double shoot openers were tested under the same conditions, so we could make direct comparisons," says Papworth.

Wear characteristics, seed placement and the openers' draft were measured in fields near Lethbridge.

"Our research so far, shows farmers should consider a number of things before they purchase a double shoot opener for their air seeder or drill," he says.

Draft increases with double shoot openers compared to conventional openers. "This means your tractor power may have to be increased as well as shank trip forces to hold the opener in the ground," says Papworth.

The air delivery system must have double shoot capability. The fan must also be able to handle a double shoot system.

The cultivator or drill must be high enough that the double shoot openers have ground clearance when they are moved between fields.

Heavy clay soils can reduce seed and fertilizer separation because the soil lumps.

Contact: Lawrence Papworth
329-1212

Direct seeding courses sweeping province

The principles of direct seeding aren't new, but there's renewed interest in this conservation farming method.

Direct seeding minimizes soil disturbance while keeping maximum surface residue. The Noble Blade of the 1930s was the first major step in managing residue to prevent soil erosion. The Prasco airseeder of the 1970s was the next major step. Manufacturers have continued to develop new equipment. Economic dry years and a growing conservation movement also heightened farmer interest in direct seeding.

A series of winter courses across the province and four regional demonstrations days have been organized in response to farmer

Cont'd on page 2

This Week

Research centre testing double shoot openers 1

Direct seeding courses sweeping province 1

Farmers' Markets might form provincial association 2

Banff Pork Seminar targets sow productivity and swine behavior 2

Updated workbook for Farmer Pesticide Certificate 3

Loading and trailering horses conference topic 3

Strategies for successful farm managers at MAP'94 4

Today's latest and tomorrow's prospects at MAP'94 4

Briefs 5

Alberta
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
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Publishing Branch
(formerly Print Media)

Agri-News is published weekly. Reprinting of articles is encouraged. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. A typewritten edition with wider line-spacing is available to media editors upon request. Editor – Cathy Wolters

demand. A partnership of three—the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), Conservation 2000 and Alberta Agriculture — organized the courses.

Courses start in mid-January and will run through March says Len Robinson, provincial co-ordinator. For more information, on specific courses, producers should contact their local Alberta Agriculture district office or regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

"Courses are practical, emphasize the importance of working in a system and focus on changes farmers may encounter as they change farming practices," says Robinson.

Courses stress the need for farmers to evaluate their current system compared with direct seeding and then develop a plan. The plan identifies where producers start and whether they'll make a gradual switch or a rapid, total change. Specifics of pest management, residue management, fertilizer management and application, direct seeding principles and equipment, and soil principles round out the course.

Direct seeding courses this winter lead into the direct seeding equipment demonstration days. The four demonstration days are in Donnelly on May 31, in Sedgewick on June 2, in Fort Saskatchewan on June 7 and in Strathmore on June 9.

Contact: *Len Robinson*
340-7610

Farmers' Markets might form provincial association

Farmers' Market managers will meet in Red Deer on January 25 to discuss forming a provincial association.

At a November market managers' workshop, a steering committee to form an association was put together. Then, all Farmers' Market managers were sent an information package detailing why a provincial association is necessary, a questionnaire asking for their comments, a list of the steering committee members and the meeting date.

One of the catalysts for the association is a recognition government cutbacks may affect the provincial Farmers' Market program. "People realize the government has to make cuts, that this could be one of them and they definitely don't want the program to fold," says Nancy Riley, one of the steering committee members. She's also the manager of the Fort Assiniboine Farmers' Market.

At the January 25 meeting, Farmers' Market managers will discuss the feasibility of a provincial association and its pros and cons. The committee will have a fairly good sense of how people feel from the questionnaires.

Questionnaires ask if the association is a good idea, what the association should or could do for its members, if they'd pay an annual membership fee, what a reasonable membership fee is and if their market would be represented at the January 25 meeting. A January 6 deadline was set for returning comments and answers to the questionnaire.

So far, response to forming an association has been "positive and encouraging" says Riley.

Besides keeping the Farmers' Market program running, an association could provide many services and programs to managers and markets. One benefit would be uniform operating rules. Those rules could cover hours of operation, seasonal stalls and compliance with health regulations. Riley, for example, sells at three markets and each have different rules.

An association could also offer programs, such as insurance, to all markets. Other roles include holding workshops, more formal networking between managers and markets, and speaking for markets about local, provincial and national policies that affect Farmers' Markets.

Other steering committee members are Judy Schofield of Beaumont, Kathleen Sacht of Calgary, Rick and Judy Lavoie of Camrose, Dan and Kathy Schmaltz of Cochrane, Harold Nicholson of Lethbridge, Randy Golinowsky of Vegreville and Hennie Webster of Lethbridge.

"The January meeting will also deal with another immediate need, a better understanding of the provincial Public Health Act," says Simone Demers Collins, current Alberta Agriculture Farmers' Market co-ordinator.

Contact: *Simone Demers Collins* *Nancy Riley*
422-1789 *584-2233*

Banff Pork Seminar targets sow productivity, swine behavior

Be nice to pigs and they'll be nice to you is one of the messages participants will hear at the Banff Pork Seminar January 18 through 21.

Paul Hemsworth, an Australian researcher, has spent nearly 20 years looking at how social environment affects swine sexual behavior and reproduction.

"Through studies and evaluations, Hemsworth has found higher productivity in operations where pigs get particular attention, such as stroking," says Irene Wenger, Alberta Agriculture regional swine specialist and a member of the seminar's organizing committee.

In the seminar's only evening session, Hemsworth will outline how to put together evaluation and training packages to improve stockman-pig interactions and achieve better herd performance.

The conference's first morning will also focus on behavior, particularly what should be considered when designing pig facilities. Different speakers will look at environments for the growing/finishing pig, the gestating sow and the farrowing and lactating sow. There'll also be a research update from the Centre for Food and Animal Research in Ottawa.

Cont'd on page 3

"These sessions will interest anyone starting a pig operation, or expanding or modifying their current operation," says Wenger.

Afternoon sessions on January 19 highlight strategies for disease control and production management. "Two of Canada's top swine veterinarians are featured speakers," notes Wenger.

Mike Wilson, of the University of Guelph, will talk about the role of vaccines in pig production systems. Camille Moore, from Quebec, will look at future production strategies."

Day two, January 20, puts the focus on reproduction. Hemsworth is one of four speakers looking at optimizing reproductive performance. Keeping and analyzing breeding herd performance are on the afternoon agenda. The session will be led by Alberta Agriculture's regional swine specialists and Camrose veterinarian Frank Marshall.

A morning session on managing the lactating and weaned sow concludes the seminar on January 21.

"The seminar's topics will interest a lot of pig farmers," says Wenger. "Panel discussions at the end of most sessions are a chance to ask questions. "Registration is also reasonable. The early registration rate is $165 per person. It goes up on January 1 to $215," she adds.

The Banff Pork Seminar is a co-operative venture of Agriculture Canada's research division, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Pork Congress, the Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Feed Industry Association (Alberta division), the University of Alberta and the Western Hog Growers Association.

Registration is through the University of Alberta. Brochures are available from Alberta Agriculture district and regional offices. Seminar proceedings are available for $25 per copy for anyone who can't attend. For more Information, contact Judy Carss at 492-2601.

Contact: Irene Wenger
853-8128

Updated workbook for Farmer Pesticide Certificate

Farmers who take pesticide certificate training this winter will be using an updated workbook.

About 2,700 farmers have taken the course since it was launched in 1991. "Several district offices have already held courses in November and December. More will be offered in early 1994," says Keith Price, one of the course designers.

All will be using the revised workbook. "We've put the workbook in plain language, updated the information and added new sections while shortening its overall length," he adds.

While pesticide training is still optional, more and more Alberta farm families are taking the pesticide training course. It covers environmental and personal protection, proper application, protecting food from residues and pesticide legislation.

"Many of the students say they feel everyone should take the course if they are going to use pesticides," notes Price. "Protecting the environment and wildlife are high on farmers' agenda and are covered thoroughly.

"There's a real return for an investment of $40 and 12 hours of your time," he adds. "There's a dollar savings in learning how to prevent spray misses, correct sprayer calibration and select the best product for the job. And without melodramatics, it could save a injury with its common sense rules on preventing spills and wearing correct protective clothing and equipment."

As a special bonus, both the UFA and Safety Supply offer discounts to the course's students. The discounts apply to buying safety equipment. "That can easily repay the cost of the course," says Price.

Course costs are income tax deductible. Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) members receive a $20 rebate when registering with an ACTS coupon. For more information on this rebate, contact Russ Evans at 936-5306.

The training courses are run in conjunction with Olds College. For a course location in your area, call Olds College at 556-8355 or call you local Alberta Agriculture district office.

Contact: Keith Price
427-5330

Loading and trailering horses conference topic

Today's horse must be able to travel on more than its four hooves and learn how to take a ride to anything from a

4-H show to a veterinary clinic.

"Like other skills for both horse and handler, loading and trailering is something that must be learned," says Les Burwash of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry section.

"We're bringing one of the best in the business to share his knowledge and experience at the 1994 Horse Owners and Breeders Conference," he adds. "Bill Collins is one of the most respected and knowledgable performance horse trainers in North America."

Collins will speak on January 16, the last day of the conference. The conference is at Red Deer's Capri Centre January 14 through 16.

Collins covers training the young horse as well as the problem horse. His presentation goes through point by point how-tos in loading a young horse. Young horses should be taught how to lead and back-up before they are trained to load and unload.

He outlines basic trailer and vehicle requirements and advises following the same hitching procedure for added safety. Collins also gives driving and long distance travel tips.

Cont'd on page 4

The Horse Owners and Breeders Conference attracts internationally recognized speakers on a variety of horse industry topics. The conference offers streams for Thoroughbred, Arabian and Quarter Horse owners and breeders as well as an all-breeds program.

Registration is $75 per person and $50 more for each person from the same farm or organization. For more information, contact Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650 or Coleman in Edmonton at 427-8906.

Collins is also featured in a 26-minute Alberta Agriculture video. "Loading and Trailering Horses with Bill Collins" is available for loan by writing Multi-Media Library, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Contact: *Les Burwash* *Bob Coleman*
297-5560 *427-8906*

Strategies for successful farm managers at MAP'94

Strategies for successful farm managers are the focus of the second day of the 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'94) conference.

The annual farm management conference runs February 1 through 3 in Red Deer. Day one features macro-economic issues. Day two follows with specific management strategies.

To start day two, feature speaker Brian Chamberlin, past president of the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, will discuss how New Zealand farmers reacted when farm support programs were eliminated. He'll also tell how production changed, how income levels changed, how farm organizations responded and how farm suppliers and retailers changed.

Concurrent sessions all cover some aspect of farm business management. Popular speaker at former MAP conferences, Gordon Colledge, returns to talk about family communications on the farm.

"Colledge has a funny, warm, down-to-earth approach," says Alan Ford, conference chair. "He'll talk about communicating effectively with the important people in your life and your business."

Short-term crop and livestock outlooks are also on the agenda. Errol Anderson is manager of Palliser Commodities Corporation in Calgary. He'll look at export grains, domestic grains, feed grains, oilseeds and some specialty crops. Anne Dunford, of Canfax, will concentrate on cattle prices. She'll also discuss how hog and poultry prices influence consumer preferences.

A two-part session on making management records work runs in the afternoon. Part one looks at new accounting techniques such as activity-based costing. In the part two workshop, participants apply those techniques.

Another two-part session is on retirement planning. The sessions look at how to plan for retirement expenses and sources of retirement income. Specific examples and case studies will be used.

Related, but different, is a session on managing a farm family transfer. "Three families who have lived through the good and bad, and succeeded will talk about their experiences," notes Ford.

The other two concurrent sessions during day two will interest crop producers. Rick McConnell will discuss insurance as a crop management strategy. Phil Thomas and Murray McLelland of Alberta Agriculture's Field Crop Development Centre will share the secrets of high yield producers. Their information is from a survey of Alberta barley and canola growers.

MAP'94 is a joint project of ADC and Alberta Agriculture. Alberta Agriculture, in partnership with other organizations and companies, has presented an annual farm management conference since 1978.

Single day and three-day registration packages are available. Single day registration is $80.25 per person or $133.75 per couple. The three-day package price is $187.25 per person or $294.25 per couple. The fee includes GST and some meals.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture and ADC district offices. Registrations before January 14, 1994 qualify for a special early bird prize.

Contact: *Alan Ford* *Donna Fleury*
421-8911 *556-4240*
ext. 1720 or
679-1720

Today's latest and tomorrow's prospects at MAP'94

It's not Aladdin's magic carpet, but the 1994 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'94) conference can take you to another world—a future world that's as close and as far away as tomorrow.

"MAP conferences are about the leading edge," says Alan Ford, conference chair. "Throughout the conference, speakers will bring participants

up-to-date and look towards what's coming next from weather to wheat prices."

MAP'94 runs February 1 through 3 at Red Deer's Capri Centre. February 3, day three, features an afternoon debate on whether Alberta should have a fuel ethanol industry. Handling the pro side of the argument is Sid Jaycock. He has more than 30 years experience in industrial engineering management. Jaycock is president of TDI Projects, a firm that specializes in putting together skills, technology and other resources for small and medium size projects.

Michelle Heath will discuss the opposite viewpoint. Heath has an extensive background in economic and financial evaluation of investment opportunities. While with Husky Oil she analyzed international, heavy and conventional oil projects. She's also

cont'd on page 5

author of **Towards a Commercial Future: Ethanol and Methanol as Alternative Transportation Fuels**. Currently, Heath is a vice-president at the Calgary-based Canadian Energy Research Institute.

"The debate will look at crucial issues," says Ford, "such as whether the industry could stand on its own and would a Western Canadian industry directly benefit farmers."

Day three starts with a question—will Canada take the same road as New Zealand? New Zealand eliminated farm income support programs in the mid-1980s. Agricultural economist Daryl Kraft will review Canada's similarities and differences to New Zealand. Doug Radke, Alberta Agriculture's deputy minister, will follow with the department's role in a time of cutbacks.

Participants have the choice of four different morning sessions. The "weird and wonderful" examines the specialty livestock sector and whether this diversification is an answer to price problems in traditional production. Red Williams will describe the pitfalls and pluses. Williams is an animal science professor emeritus from the University of Saskatchewan.

A holistic farming session covers theory, goal setting and decision making. Randee and Don Halladay of Rocky Mountain House will tell how they've managed their ranch holistically since 1985. They'll be joined by Noel McNaughton, agriculture and food media commentator. All three are registered holistic management teachers.

Bruce Waldie, Alberta Agriculture specialist, offers a practical guide to using computers on the farm. He'll outline basic hardware and software requirements.

Frontiers of biotechnology is another choice. Jenny Glickman-Rynd will discuss benefits, costs, risks and ethics. Glickman-Rynd has worked in the biotechnology field since 1977.

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture and ADC district offices. Registrations before January 14, 1994 qualify for a special early bird prize.

Single day and three-day registration packages are available. Single day registration is $80.25 per person or $133.75 per couple. The three-day package price is $187.25 per person or $294.25 per couple. The fee includes GST and some meals.

Contact:	*Al Ford*	*Donna Fleury*
	679-1270 or *429-8911* *ext. 1270*	*556-4240*

Agri-News briefs

Ag societies meet in Crossfiled January 29

Agricultural societies should bring their fair books and promotional ideas to a provincial agricultural society meeting in Crossfield on January 29. Display tables will be available at the meeting site, Crossfield's Community Centre. The day-long meeting starts at 9 a.m. Bob Church is back by popular demand. Alberta Agriculture's Ray Fenton is the other featured speaker. He'll talk about animal welfare. Other agenda topics are board and director responsibilities, motivating and involving volunteers, and facility operation concerns. A $10 fee covers hall rental and lunch. Pre-registration is required before January 21, 1994. For more information or to register, contact Louise Welsh or Anne Bennett in Edmonton at 427-2171 or fax 438-3362.

Western regional conference of CCGA January 28

The challenge of change in the food industry is the theme of the Western Regional Conference of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors. The conference is January 28 at Calgary's Westin Hotel. Conference topics include Canada in a changing world, how the consumer is changing, efficient consumer response (ECR) and what ECR will bring. Speakers include Gary Haley of Canada West Food Corporation; John Yerxa, president of Yerxa Research; George Deegan, president of United Grocers Inc.; Mike Shirriff of Kraft Canada; and, Frank King, the chairman of Calgary's 1988 Olympics. Registration is $180 before January 21 and $210 after. For more information, contact Bryan Walton in Edmonton at 435-8823 or fax 434-8623.

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4th annual cattlemen's corral January 11-12

The fourth annual Cattlemen's Corral returns to the Lloydminster Exhibition January 11 and 12. The event includes seminars, trade show and banquet. The trade show runs from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on January 11 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 12. Featured speakers are business columnist Paul Martin, psychologist and stress expert Lynda Haverstock, veterinarian Doug Weir and beef researcher David Bailey. Martin is the opening speaker. He'll discuss business opportunities in the '90s. Haverstock, the afternoon speaker on January 11, will run a farm stress workshop. Weir will give calving tips later in the afternoon. Bailey's presentation is billed as "the coat of many colors". He'll discuss matching cattle to their environments and define purebred, synthetic, composite and hybrid cattle. An industry panel discussion follows. Steve Stumblejumpski will entertain during the Tuesday night banquet. The provincial quilt competition entries will be on display. For more information, contact the Lloydminster Exhibition Association at (306)825-5571.

Peace diversification conference offered twice

Two Peace region farm diversification conferences are scheduled for successive days in different locations. The first is January 25 in the High Prairie Elks Hall. The second is January 26 in Peace River at the North Peace Catholic Conference Centre. Both conferences start at 1 p.m. and run until 9:30 p.m. Topics on the agenda include farm woodlots, game farming, herb, spice and dried flowers, and home-based business. The conference includes supper. Anyone interested in displaying their diversified product can set up a display. The conference is a Canada/Alberta Farm Business Management Initiative (FBMI) project. For more information, contact Suzanne Randall or Freeman Iwasiuk in High Prairie at 523-6500, or Lori Gawalko or Dave Spencer in Peace River at 624-6205.

Western Canadian companies invited to join Mexican trade show

An Edmonton company is inviting Western Canadian businesses to be part of a Mexican food show in 1994. The ANTAD show is February 27 through March 1 in Guadalajara. TBI International will take samples and point-of-sale material. Companies who want to attend themselves can contact Elton Dunk, Alberta Agriculture trade director in Edmonton, at 427-4241 or Rodney Dlugos of Agriculture Canada in Edmonton at 495-5527. For more information, contact Darrell Toma or Jerry Bouma in Edmonton at 433-5666.

Conservation farming guide available from ACTS

The Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) teamed with Unifarm to publish a 50-page "Conservation Farming Guide". The full-color booklet covers the history of conservation, its benefits, how to achieve those benefits, conservation and society, and an information resource list. Each conservation practice from crop rotations to tillage systems includes a farmer profile. The guides are available from the ACTS office at $5 per copy. For more information or to order the guide, write Russ Evans, ACTS executive manager, Box 1, Site 9, RR 5, Calgary Alberta, T2P 2G6, or call 936-5306.